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2005ISSUE
1146

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

SGA to vote on proposed constitution changes

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Recommended changes to the Student Government Association constitution will help avoid confusion over tiebreaker rules and officers' responsibilities, according to the Operations and Rules Committee.

The committee, headed by Daniel Hollander, graduate student, management information systems and business, talked about the changes, which have been the first since 2000. Hollander was elected chair of the committee last fall. He said the committee has met regularly to discuss modifications to the constitution.

This committee was responsible for changes to the election rules after a contested election last year. "We came up with a proposed set of changes for the election rules, which we submitted and was adopted by the Assembly," Hollander said. "We don't have the power to make any changes."

Hollander said the University Assembly makes the final decision to either agree to their recommendation as is, accept the proposed changes but make their own changes or completely reject the proposal.

Hollander and committee members presented the refined constitution to the University Assembly at the SGA meeting on Feb. 18. At the

upcoming March 11 meeting, the student senate will discuss the changes and decide how to proceed.

"Assuming they decide to accept it, either in whole or in part, and approve it, then it will need to be approved by the students in a student wide referendum," Hollander said.

Mary Ann Coker, junior, sociology and criminology and criminal justice, is a member of the committee, and she shared her input into changing the constitution. "Most of the proposed changes were presented by the executive board as a somewhat unified group. Some of the changes the committee has agreed with, but some we voted against," she said.

While most of the changes

involved cleaning up the document and correcting typos and inconsistent numbering and lettering, one substantial change to the constitution included a clarification of the rule about the tie breaking procedure.

The current constitution states that the presiding officer breaks the tie, but past members have been confused about who exactly the presiding officer is in that situation. The new revision clarifies that the chair would break the tie.

Another proposed change added the power of veto to the offices of the president, vice president and comptroller.

see SGA CONSTITUTION, page 12

Constitutional changes proposed:

- Clarifications of student officer duties
- Eliminate position of SGA Treasurer
- Would allow SGA president, vice-president and comptroller a new veto power over legislation
- Clarify election rules about tie-breaking procedures

ACLU speaker advocates bill to outlaw racial profiling

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

On March 1, Morris Taylor, racial justice fellow of the American Civil Liberties Union and former police officer, came to UM-St. Louis to make a case against racial profiling.

Taylor said racial profiling affected all people, regardless of ethnic background. He used his experience as a St. Louis city officer in a predominantly black neighborhood as an example. "When I was an officer, anyone who was Caucasian we were told to stop," he said.

He said that while it was important for police officers to have some discretion in who they stop, stopping people on the sole basis of race was wrong and ineffective. "The courts have afforded police a tremendous amount of leeway in what they can do and how invasive their searches are," Taylor said.

Taylor urged his audience to do several things to protect their rights. He suggested staying informed, being active in politics, lobbying representatives and connecting and networking with human rights groups.

Approximately 100 people filled the Century Rooms to participate in the discussion or hear what Taylor had to say. Some professors offered extra credit for students who attended.

"It sounded interesting and my professor offered extra credit for it," Leah Hall, junior, criminal justice, said. "I don't know that much about it and in my line of work it would help to know more about it."

Missouri is one of the states with laws against racial profiling, but Amnesty International is one organization that is trying to end the practice nationwide.

"There are laws against it in Missouri, but a lot of states don't even have laws against it," Michele Landeau, junior, history, and member of Amnesty International, said.

The End Racial Profiling Act of 2004, pending Congressional approval, would establish nationwide statutes against racial profiling. By sponsoring a guest speaker to talk about racial profiling, Amnesty International hoped it would increase support for the bill.

"We're hoping they enjoy the speaker, learn what he has to say, affect society as a whole and get information out," Matt Bales, senior, psychology, said. "Amnesty is also trying to get people to sign postcards to Congressman Clay urging him to support the End Racial Profiling Act in Congress."

According to Amnesty International, the bill was important because racial profiling is unethical. "Racial profiling not only violates basic amendments of the Constitution, it also violates international human rights law," Landeau said.

People left with mixed feelings about the discussion. "I agreed with some parts," Gary Benton, senior, education, said.

"I don't know if [ending racial profiling is] a good idea because I

see RACIAL PROFILING, page 3

UMSL Day marks big effort for recruitment

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

On Sunday, March 13, prospective UM-St. Louis students will have a chance to visit the campus, talk to their future teachers and get a taste of the UM-St. Louis experience during UMSL Day.

The event, sponsored by the Admissions Office, will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center.

"This is a good opportunity for people who have never visited the campus before to spend an afternoon doing everything they would like to do," Melissa Hattman, director of admissions, said. "They can talk to faculty, they can visit student housing, visit the Honors College and take tours of the campus."

The event would provide opportunities for prospective students to connect with faculty and student organizations.

UMSL Day will begin with welcome speeches from Hattman and others, followed by opportunities to visit with specific department faculty, staff and student organizations that will be represented at tables on the different floors of the rotunda.

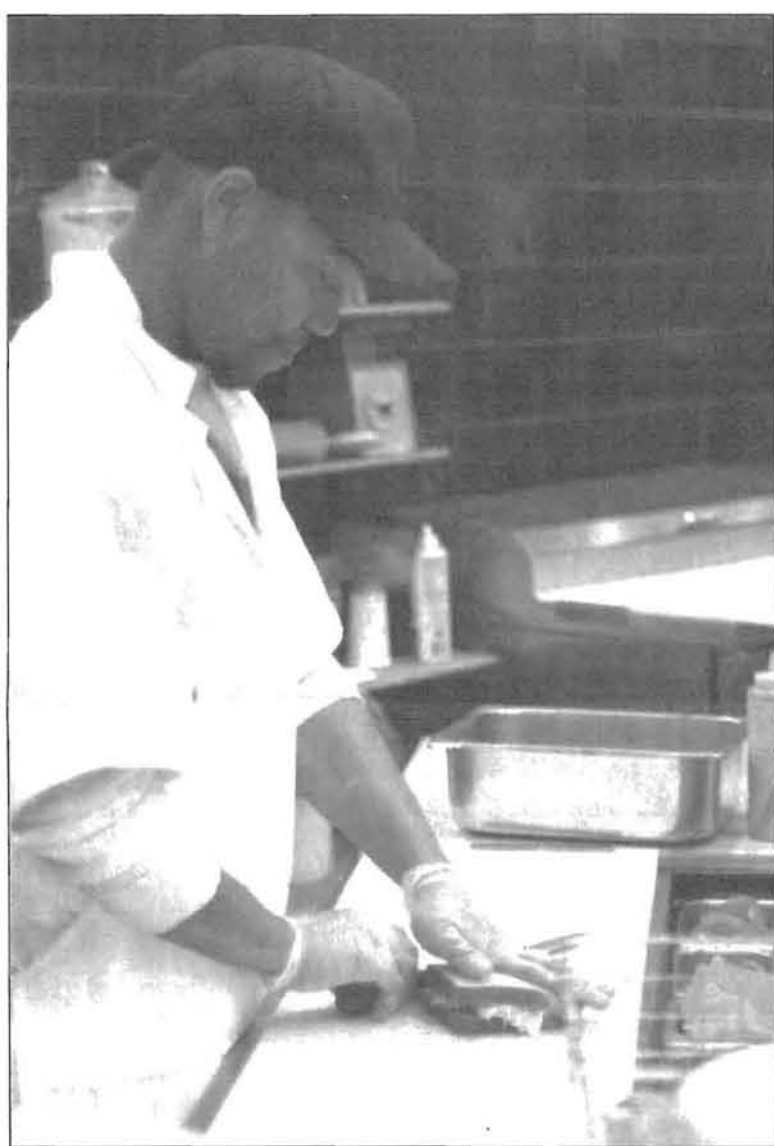
Two UMSL Day events are held every year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Last UMSL Day more than 25 student organizations, in addition to representatives from most academic departments, took part in recruiting students. Student Life organizes the student organizations that wish to participate.

"Student organizations go through Student Life so Admissions does not know who is going to be there," explained Yolanda Weatherby, Administrative Assistant and an organizer of the event. "So what we do is put tables out and whoever comes fills them."

Most organizations participate, Weatherby said, because it is the perfect opportunity to attract potential students to their respective organization or academic field.

"We offer the opportunity to every organization on campus, they don't all participate, though," Hattman said.

see UMSL DAY, page 3



Erica Burrus/The Current
Chartwell's Employee Andrew Scott makes a sandwich for a student in the Nosh. The new Chartwell's food committee was created to process student's comments on the food service.

New SGA committee seeks student input about food service

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Students no longer have to keep concerns about food service at UM-St. Louis to themselves. A new committee will allow students to share their views on issues with Chartwells.

The Student Government Association asked for Chartwells' assistance in helping out with the new committee. D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology and vice chair of the executive board for the SGA, said, "Food service was an issue that we highlighted at an SGA retreat in early January."

Braddix explained that board members of the SGA were assigned tasks, and he received the task of forming and leading a food service committee.

Braddix and his committee looked at the issues students have with food service through Chartwells. "Some of the issues were customer service, the hours, specifically weekend hours, pricing and healthier food options," he said.

The committee agreed on possi-

ble solutions to these issues, such as customer service training, smaller portions, which could lead to reduced prices and trial sessions to see what hours of operations worked best and if extra hours benefited Chartwells.

The first meeting involved only student input, but the next meeting will allow John Klein and Gloria Schultz, who work closely with Chartwells, to give their views. Braddix said, "They can give us some background information on the contract and also what they've done to improve since the last committee, which focused mostly on food service in the dorms." The third meeting will let Chartwells employees have their say.

"To have a food committee is always a good service for the University's needs and wants of Chartwells," Zhanara Scherer, catering director for Chartwells, said.

Scherer talked about students having an attitude that they have to use Chartwells, but her response to those students is "It's okay. We'll work with you."

see FOOD SERVICE, page 12

Rep. Bearden discusses higher ed funding

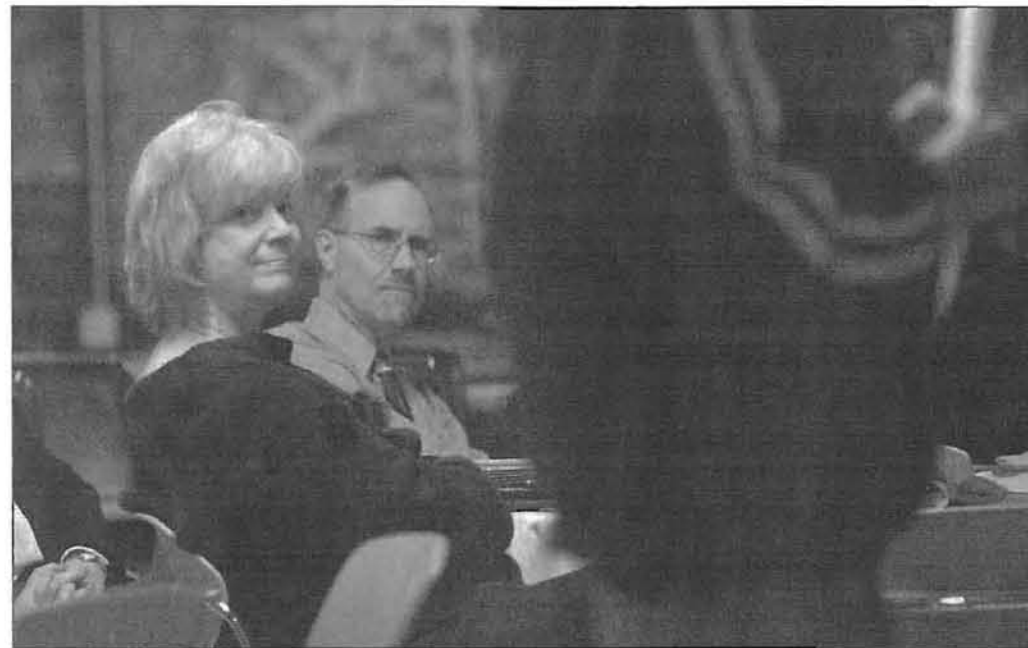
BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Rep. Carl Bearden visited UM-St. Louis Friday to speak with students in the Pilot House and attempted to answer their questions about the student curator bill and discrimination policies that affect funding at the University.

Bearden, state representative and speaker pro tem of the Missouri House of Representatives, shared the current happenings in the Missouri Legislature regarding higher education policies.

Next week, Bearden plans to introduce a bill that will restructure how the state funds universities. After the state can manage an appropriate funding level, Bearden said, "I'd like us to think a little bit differently on how we fund higher education."

One major issue that affects University funding involves a bill that Bearden co-sponsored last year. The bill states that no public institution that receives state funds shall



Mike Sherwin/The Current

adopt a nondiscrimination policy that exceeds federal standards.

Besides the federal standards, the University added that a person's sexual orientation was protected under its nondiscriminatory policy, so this

bill would directly affect UM-St. Louis.

This year, while he did not co-sponsor a similar bill, Bearden still supported it. This means that the state can withdraw the University's fund-

ing if the bill passes because of the clause that states that a person's sexual orientation is protected just as sex or ethnicity is protected.

see BEARDEN, page 12

Assistant to the Chancellor Betty Van Uum and Chancellor Thomas George listen to ASUM member Charles Stadlander during a 'Lunch with A Legislator' with Missouri Rep. Carl Bearden, R-St. Charles.

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Bullet In Board

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The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsi.edu.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Mon. March 7

Monday noon series

Laura Westhoff, assistant professor of history and education, will discuss her research on the role of women in Progressive Era of social reform at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunches. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free and open to the public, and it's part of the Monday Noon Series, which is sponsored by The Center for the Humanities, Missouri Arts Council and The Regional Arts Commission. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsi.edu/~cfh> for more information.

Tues. March 8

Man of La Mancha Audition (Senior Theater)

Etc., UM-St. Louis' senior theater company, will hold auditions for an adaptation of "Man of La Mancha" at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center auditorium. This adaptation is set in a rural retirement community. Actors ages 50 to 80 are needed for the leading roles and for non-singing roles to portray residents. Younger actors are needed to depict staff members. Actors auditioning for a leading character should bring 16 measures of sheet music and dress comfortably. A pianist will be

provided. Auditions are free, however, to participate in the production, actors must be members of the senior theater. Membership is \$25. The performance will take place on May 21. Etc. is sponsored by the College of Fine Arts & Communication, Continuing Education & Outreach. Call (314) 352-7980 or visit http://www.umsi.edu/~conted/finarts/noncredit/theatre_ncpgrms.html for more information.

Tues. March 8

Study Abroad Senegal-Student talk

Graphic design students will discuss their four-week stay in Tambacounda, Senegal, during the month of December. The students took place in a international art festival, and traveled all over Senegal. The discussion will take place at 1 p.m. in the Century Rooms A and B in the Millenium Center.

Wed. March 9

"Women on the Move" Art Exhibition

"UMSL Women on the Move 2005," an exhibition featuring artwork by women faculty, staff and students at UM-St. Louis, opens today and runs through April 7 at Gallery Visio, 190 Millennium Student Center. The exhibition also will include paintings by St. Louis

artist Alicia Scholastic and historical artifacts that chronicle the life and career of writer Emily Hahn. The artifacts were arranged and include notes by Kathleen Butterfly Nigro, adjunct assistant professor in the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. An opening reception will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The exhibition is sponsored by the Gallery Visio Student Association. Call 7922 for more information.

Wed. March 9

Midterm Stress Relief Fair

The Midterm Stress Relief Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 190 Millennium Student Center. The fair will include health screenings, massages, healthy snacks, wellness information, games and prizes. This event is free and open to faculty, staff and students. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations. Call 6807 for more information.

Wed. March 9

HIV/Risky Behavior Discussion

Kim Stiglitz, assistant professor of nursing, and Terri Conley, assistant professor of psychology, will discuss "Think You're Safe? HIV and Risky Behavior Among Students" at 12:30 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. Their presenta-

tion is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Light refreshments will be served. Call 5581 for more information.

Thurs. March 10

Peter Kaplan Lecture

As a part of the Visiting Graphic Designer Lecture Series, designer Peter Kaplan will lecture from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center Century Room A. Peter will discuss his design styles and influences.

He has been an art director for Comedy Central, Spot Design and currently works at Ogilvy and Mather in New York. His design specialties are print design and typography, and his work often includes offbeat humor and self-authored explorations.

This event is free and open to the public, and is co-sponsored by the UM-St. Louis department of Art and Art History and the UM-St. Louis American Institute of Graphic Arts Student Group. For Info contact Jennifer McKnight at 516-6965 or mcknightj@msx.umsi.edu.

Mon. March 14

Study Abroad Senegal-Student talk

Melat, a UM-St. Louis student who was born in Ethiopia, will share what it's like to live in Ethiopia and the scary and funny challenges of making a new life in America. She

will be attired in her native dress, and there will be African music and a free Ethiopian lunch. This event is sponsored by the Association of Student Anthropologists and will take place at 1 p.m. in Gallery 210, which is located next to the UMSL North-Metro Station, in the same building as the police department. Questions? Contact Stacy Beckenholt at umsigal@aol.com.

Thurs. March 31

Contest deadline

Entries due March 31 for a UN World Holiday contest held by the Center for International Studies. Three \$3,000 prizes will be awarded for each category. Categories include essay (2-3 pages), art and webpage design (submit on CD). Entries should center on the theme, "How would a United Nations world holiday benefit the world, and what will I do to make it happen?" For more information, contact Mike Costello at 516-6454, costello@umsi.edu or visit him at 304-C SSB.

Sunday ongoing

Newman Center Mass

The Catholic Newman Center holds mass every Sunday night at 8:30 in the Bellerive residence hall chapel. Mass is also held on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Newman House.

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Former war crimes prosecutor speaks on Rwandan genocide

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

How could the world have done nothing during the Rwanda genocide? For people who watched the movie "Hotel Rwanda," that may have been one of the first questions that came to mind.

On Thursday, March 3, attorney Allan A. Ryan, Jr. reminded a campus audience about the world situation in 1994 when the Rwandan genocide started. At that same time, war and genocide were also happening in Yugoslavia.



Allan A. Ryan

Ryan spoke about the Rwandan genocide and its aftermath in a talk entitled "Finding Justice After Genocide: Rwanda." at 9:30 a.m. in Lucas Hall 200. The free lecture was sponsored by E. Desmond Lee Global Ethic Collaborative, the Center for International Studies and the St. Louis chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Genocide is a topic that Ryan, a former chief war crimes prosecutor for the U. S. Department of Justice, knows well. From 1980 to 1983, he built cases for the Justice Department against Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

Ryan also worked with Rwanda's government officials and lawyers to draft a plan for criminal trials. In 1995, he was asked to advise the Rwandan government on how to bring justice and resolution in the aftermath of the

genocide. The war in Yugoslavia captured much of the world's attention when the genocides began in Rwanda and that situation contributed to the world's lack of response. Ryan said, however, that there was more to it than a competing international situation.

Ryan said that the United States "bent over backwards" not to label the horrific things happening in Rwanda as genocide to avoid having to do something about it. He said they took this approach because they did not have any pressing interest in the Rwandan area. The situation was different in Yugoslavia, where the United States encouraged U.N. involvement because it had an interest in what was happening in Europe.

When the truth about the horrendous events in Rwanda finally came to light, the world could no longer close its eyes to the facts. Ryan said that by avoiding calling the Rwandan genocide as such, the United States and the world could avoid doing anything about it because after Nazi Germany, calling something "genocide" carried an obligation for nations to act.

Debates about whether to call the Rwandan situation "genocide" played a role in delaying action and one of the things that Ryan wanted to encourage is a legal definition for genocide. Since the lack of that definition can be used to block criminal prosecutions, Ryan said such a definition could help prosecutors.

Politics has played a role in these prosecutions in the past, and Ryan was concerned the definition might become bogged down by the politics of what to do about genocide.

Ryan said that he did not avoid the emotional aspect of genocide because of indifference, but because the emotional, philosophical and psychological



Tenaz Shirazian/ The Current

Ephrem Andemariam, Editorial assistant journal of immigrnat and refugee studies, and Brian Dale, Department assistant of center for international studies, are both so into the speech by Allan Ryan, attorney in Harvard Office of Genereal Counsel, that was held in 200 Lucas Hall on March 3rd.

aspects were too enormous to address with simple legal means.

The plan on which Ryan collaborated with Rwanda's government officials and lawyers incorporated a practice of traditional Rwandan village justice called gacacas. This allowed the trials to incorporate a phase that allowed victims to tell their stories, which was an essential part of the Truth and Reconciliation trials in South Africa.

According to Ryan, the events in the last century taught people that one of the strongest needs of survivors is disclosure, not simple revenge. Without acknowledgement of their suffering, the wounds of the victims

continue to fester. Survivors want the world to know what happened and recognize who should be held accountable. That holds more importance to them than the actual punishment of the criminals.

Ultimately, the Rwandan crimes were tried by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The tribunal was established by the U.N. Security Council to prosecute those responsible for the Rwandan genocide and to promote peace in the area.

One of the crimes the tribunal addressed was rape, which is not always treated as a serious crime in Africa, where most countries, exclud-

ing Rwanda, are highly patriarchal. "Rape is often treated as a lesser crime in Africa," Ryan said.

"My impression was that Rwanda was not a particularly patriarchal country; women were in power there before the genocide, but the education in the country was low," Ryan said. "Generally, wealthy families would send their children to Europe for an education but then the children did not come back.

"The post genocide government has a high percentage of women in it," Ryan said. "But I am not sure if this is responsible for the low levels of rape in the country or the seriousness that rape

is given as a crime in the eyes of the government."

Although the world has had the Nuremberg Nazi trials and the South African Truth and Reconciliation tribunals, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is the first judgment on genocide by an international court. The tribunal's work is expected to continue through 2008.

The tribunal is based in Arusha, in neighboring Tanzania. "The U.N. tribunal had trouble getting judges to serve on the U.N. court at Arusha," Ryan said. "Arusha is not as comfortable or as accessible a place as somewhere like the Hague in Europe."

Like the genocide itself, at first the Rwanda tribunals were not given much attention.

"The Rwandan tribunal was not considered a high priority at the time," Ryan said. "It was overshadowed by Yugoslavia but the tribunal has been somewhat redeemed since then."

Ryan wanted students and other concerned citizens to be informed and avoid another situation like the Rwanda genocides. "These events (genocide) take place in the world from time to time," Ryan said. "We have got to learn from Rwanda in order to deal with Darfur," referring to the genocide currently happening in Africa.

For people concerned about Darfur, Ryan offered some advice. "This U.S. administration is unresponsive on this issue but Congress is acting, Congressman Jon Corzine, D-New Jersey, is leading this effort in Congress and students who want to help should contact Congressman Corzine," he said. "The United Nations has a lot to say on Darfur but the United Nations can only act as its members allow it to act. If this administration won't lead, then Congress will."

UMSL DAY, from page 1

Approximately 1,700 invitations were mailed out. Last semester, 1,000 prospective students and their parents made reservations, with more than 60 percent showing up.

"This is an opportunity for anyone who has expressed interest in the University either during high school visits, community college visits or corporate visits," Hattman said. "Anybody in our database."

Prospective students are also

given the opportunity to talk to admission personnel and fill out applications. They can also talk to Academic Advising and Financial Aid personnel.

"Many prospective students will go to the Admissions office to complete an application or drop one off. Many will go to advising if they have been admitted. If they have any academic or advising questions they can meet with advisors in the

Advising Center," Hattman said.

A series of information sessions will be held throughout the day for new students and their parents on issues ranging from information for parents to information on night classes and helping students choose majors. Most of the academic colleges, along with the Honors College and financial aid, will hold information sessions.

"Prospective students will have

an opportunity to sit through structured sessions on topics that every parent and prospective student wants to know about," Hattman said.

Prospective students and parents will be able to take tours of the campus, residence halls and the University Meadows apartments throughout the day. Refreshments will be served on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center.

RACIAL PROFILING, from page 1

believe in protecting myself and we would have a lot more problems if it stopped."

"I thought it was very informative," Shelonda Polk, sophomore, nursing, said. While she agreed that racial profiling was wrong and signed a postcard to Congressman Clay, she did not think racial profiling would end.

"I don't believe in it but I don't believe there's anything you can do," Polk said. "The bottom line is, as long

as people can see, there's going to be racism. It's stupid, it's dumb, but sometimes people are just afraid of those who are different."

The Helping Hands student organization, Catholic Newman Center, Pan-African Association and the Political Science Academy co-sponsored the event. "I hope people will be more aware of what's going on in the community and do something about it," Landeau said.

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bill passes House, goes
to Gov. Blunt

Southwest Missouri State University may soon be renamed Missouri State University, after the House of Representatives passed a bill approving the name change. Gov. Matt Blunt supported the bill and is expected to sign it within the next couple weeks. If passed, the name change would be effective Aug. 28. SMSU has been lobbying for passage of similar bills for the past 19 years. Several organizations, including the University of Missouri Alumni Association and the Associated Students of the University of Missouri opposed the name change. Some were concerned that SMSU would be confused with the University of Missouri. The UM-System flagship campus in Columbia was historically known

as Missouri State University. Another concern was that SMSU would receive a portion of the University of Missouri's state funding. The Missouri constitution states that MSU is the state's only official university, so there were concerns that the University of Missouri would lose funds. UM President Elson Floyd said he would not oppose the bill, provided SMSU does not duplicate certain academic programs or receive a greater portion of state funding than the University of Missouri and does not affect its land grant and research mission. Proponents of the bill said it would increase recognition of SMSU, help in recruiting and more accurately reflect the school's mission.

New task force will
review UMSL athletics

Chancellor Thomas George has announced a task force reviewing

UM-St. Louis's athletic program. The task force includes faculty, students and alumni and is headed by Stephen Moehrle, assistant professor in the college of Business Administration. Among other things, the task force will compare aspects of UM-St. Louis's athletic program, including grade point averages and graduation rates, student participation and attendance and athlete recruitment, to those of other schools. The findings are due at the end of the year. It will also look at and make recommendations on whether the University should change divisions in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. UM-St. Louis currently competes at the Division II level and sponsors 5 men's sports and 6 women's sports. The latest addition was women's golf, which they added in 1997 after eliminating swimming the year before.

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STUDENT OPINION

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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

LETTERS

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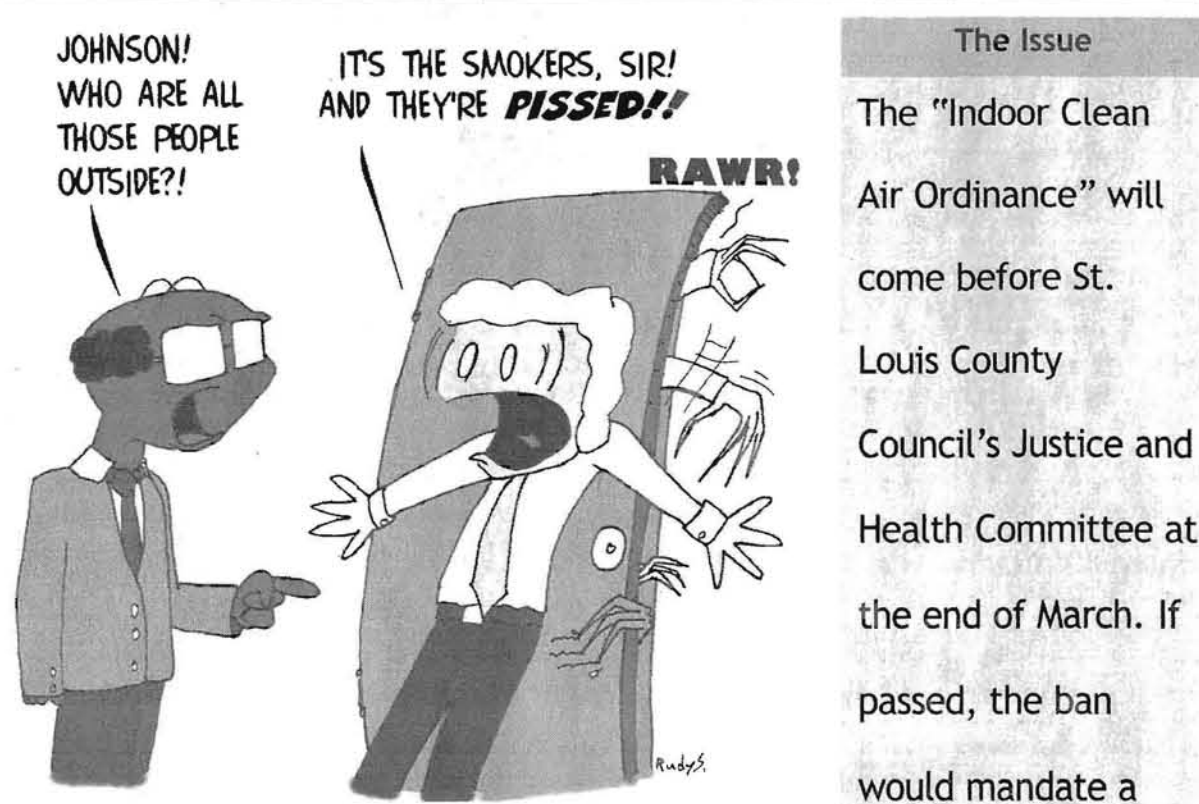
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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

OUR OPINION



County should let businesses decide own smoking policies

If Kurt Odenwald has his way, smoking will be banned from all St. Louis County public spaces, including restaurants, bars and nightclubs. His proposal, the "Indoor Clean Air Ordinance" will come before the County Council's Justice and Health Committee on March 22.

The council should reject the proposal and instead allow business owners to make their own decisions about whether to be smoke-free.

Indeed, smoking is a destructive and disgusting habit. According to the American Lung Association, cigarettes contain 4,800 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer. The ALA estimates that 440,000 people died each year from smoking-related illnesses between 1995 and 1999.

However, the fact remains that smoking is legal, and consumers and business owners are fully capable of deciding for themselves where their priorities lie.

The government should permit business owners to make rational choices about the ambience they wish to establish, and the customer base they want to attract.

Likewise, consumers ultimately hold the power to change business policy. Patrons offended by second-hand smoke should exercise their rights and complain to business owners. If an owner finds a large enough chunk of its customer base vowing to stay away unless smoking is banned, guess what? Owners will bow to the needs and desires of its customer base.

Restaurateurs and bar owners may choose to keep the dinner hours, when families and children are often present, smoke-free while pulling out the ashtrays for the late-night crowd.

Proponents of smoking bans have pointed out that other municipalities that have effected smoking bans have not seen large drops in revenue or numbers of restaurants. However, this skips over the simple tenet that business owners can decide for themselves.

The council should instead reinforce the message to constituents that their dollars and their patronage speak volumes. Consumers should be vocal, telling business owners why they will or will not patronize an establishment.

As an alternative to Odenwald's bill, the council could consider legislation to give a county-approved designation of 'Non-smoking establishment' to be displayed outside restaurants and bars that choose to go smoke-free, enticing potential customers with a non-smoking preference.

The law of supply and demand will prevail. If the public clamors for non-smoking establishments, business owners would be horribly remiss in ignoring their call. However, the county council should defer to the will of the community of business owners and their clientele before mandating a complete smoking ban.

The Issue

The "Indoor Clean Air Ordinance" will come before St. Louis County Council's Justice and Health Committee at the end of March. If passed, the ban would mandate a complete smoking ban in all establishments, limiting the rights and clientele of area businesses.

We suggest

Let business owners decide on the smoking status of their establishments, and let patrons decide if they want to visit a smoke-free environment.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website www.thecurrentonline.com

Gag me with a french fry

As a people of little time and growing responsibility, college students often rely on the divinely inspired concept of fast food for daily nutrition. This convenient creation, tasty as it may seem, is killing us.

I cannot exclude myself from the nugget-scarfing, burger-biting population. In fact, I had a hankering for French fries when I started watching "Super Size Me" last week. The film, nominated for the best documentary Academy Award, follows one man as he explores the effects of a McDonald's diet. The facts do more than disturb. They disgusted me, literally and figuratively.

Two out of every three adults are overweight or obese. The realization that America is the fattest nation on earth has grown in recent years, but the problem continues to grow. According to supersize.com, a person would have to walk for seven continuous hours to burn off the calories in a super-sized Big Mac meal (Coke, French fry and burger).

Unhealthy eating habits have led to the increased girth of the American population, and the collective inflation of people has led to a laundry list of complications, including coronary heart disease, adult onset diabetes, stroke, gall bladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, cancer (endometrial, breast, prostate and colon), insulin resistance, asthma, hyperuricemia, reproductive hormone defects, impaired fertility and back pain.

Despite its deadly effects, the lure of fast food offers us something quick, cheap and sinfully tasty. How can a rushed, broke, hungry student possibly resist? Buy real food. If you have children, buy them real food too. One-third of kids born in 2000, will develop diabetes, a number that has skyrocketed alongside the adolescent obesity problem.

In the last ten years, we have come to understand the fatal effects of smoking. Though people still continue to inhale cancer-causing chemicals, they understand the risks. The obesity epidemic has gained some media attention, but not as much as it deserves. Bottom line: fast food can kill us. Obesity and related complications have now reached the second cause of preventable death, right behind smoking.

Interest groups, health officials and lawyers have demonized the tobacco industry, yet fast food companies barely have a dent in their grease-coated reputation. I have yet to find a surgeon general's warning on the side of a Happy Meal. We need to hold the industry accountable for its product, even if that just means openly displaying "nutritional" information without a fancy spin. I want to know that, according to McDonald's, a large order of fries has 520 calories and 25 grams of fat. If I enjoy it with a double quarter-pounder with cheese (730 calories/40 grams of fat) and a Coke (310 calories), I will consume 1,560 calories and 65 grams of fat in one sitting. I would like to be aware that I have nearly devoured my entire recommended daily caloric intake.

Go easy on the big burgers. Opt for the healthier establishments, or plan ahead and bring food from home. Do I expect everyone to stop eating fast food? Hardly. We just need to understand the consequences of every bite.



KATE DROLET

Editor-in-Chief

Media makes sex inescapable

Think about the last commercial you saw, or shall I say remember seeing. Was it the Victoria's Secret advertisement for the new IPEX bra or the Hardees commercial with the woman consuming a hamburger while riding a mechanical bull? The main ingredient in successful commercials, movies and television shows today involves sexual implication.

Although there are commercials that do not involve sex, the majority do. Watch television for about an hour and count all of the beautiful women and rock-hard bodied men you see attempting to sell a product. In today's society, sex sells. While humor is also a big-seller, I think commercials featuring beautiful people beat these out.

Consider the Axe commercials. These feature men who use the body spray, and then attract many women. As a matter of fact, women flock to the men who are engulfed in this scent. Another advertisement that comes to mind is the Old Spice deodorant commercials. These now include a woman dancing in the middle of a club, suggesting to men that this woman will like him if he wears their deodorant.

Commercials may involve more sex than ever today, but are not the only public forms that feature it. Almost every television show involves some kind of love story or sexual implications. If you watch MTV for more than a few minutes, you are likely to see anything from women dancing in next to nothing or people who have known each other for two minutes kissing.

Even network television stations include sex. For example, "The OC" features everything from a lesbian couple to married couples having affairs with their co-workers. The show "One Tree Hill" is also sexually explicit.

This show is about teenagers and the things they go through entering young adulthood. Either way, both of these shows are on local stations and come on around 7 or 8 p.m. when children are up and wanting to watch television.

Every episode of "Fear Factor" includes voluptuous men and women. Almost no woman you see on the show has any fat or less than perfect looks. Cable television is a completely different category because they are able to show more than network television can. Spike TV is a station geared towards men and Comedy Central has a show called The Man Show that includes such things as women jumping on trampolines.

Movies are definitely not an exception to these standards. What was the last movie you saw that had no sexual inference in it? Thinking back to last movies I watched, they all include the content. Even the movie Shrek has sexual insinuations. This is one of my favorite movies and is geared towards both adults and children, but has many points which imply sex or some kind of sexual connotation.

The main point is that sex sells. All of these movies, television shows and commercials attract people. The fact that I remembered the commercials I named shows that the advertiser is doing his or her job. All they want people to do is remember their product because the consumer will then think of the product when going to buy a new stick of deodorant or a hamburger.

Sexual references on television and in movies are not a bad thing. It does demonstrate, however, that there is not much of a way to prevent children from being exposed to these kinds of things. They are going to learn about it sometime, and today it is sooner rather than later.



BECKY ROSNER

Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

- How do you feel about the topics we've covered?
- Smoke free: A business decision
 - Gag me with a french fry
 - Media makes sex inescapable
- You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!
- Submit a letter to the editor
 - Write a guest commentary
 - Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley

Photography Associate

What would you like to be celebrated for a month

Angie Ziegler

Junior

Business Marketing

"

How about a month of hairstyles of the past? You would have to wear historical hairstyles and make sure you get a haircut that month.

"

Denise Morrow

Senior

Psychology

"

I think we should celebrate the current history of African Americans. February recognizes the past, so there should be one that recognizes the present.

"

Doug Karst

Representative

Campus Crusade for Christ

"

A month dedicated to the message of the Bible. Specifically with this month being Easter, the resurrection of Christ, this month would be ideal.

"

Ezra Claverie

Graduate Student

English

"

I think it would be cool to have a month dedicated to Heavy Metal! Judas Priest, Motorhead and Raven are bands that should be especially included. Raven is seriously under-appreciated...

"

SCIENCE COLUMN

Finger length points to personality, aggression



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Forget palm reading. Could the shape of hands tell something about the person?

A recent study published in the scientific journal Biological Psychology, by a Canadian psychologist, found a link between finger length and physical aggression in males. Surprisingly, there are several other traits that may have links to finger length.

Dr. Peter Hurd of University of Alberta was skeptical of the idea of a link between physical aggression and finger length until he saw the data accumulated in the study that he and student Alison Bailey were conducting. Their survey of 300 students found a correlation between the ratio of length of the ring finger relative to the index finger and physical aggression in male students. Male students with longer ring fingers tended to be more physically aggressive. The correlation did not hold true for verbal aggressiveness or hostility in males, and did not hold true at all for women. The researcher stressed that these were statistical trends, and might not be true for a given individual.

Dr. Hurd is now planning to investigate the link further by looking at aggression and finger length in hockey players. In Canada, who

else but hockey players would you pick to study aggression?

The idea that finger length ratios might match up to other things goes way back. It was noted early last century that the proportions of finger lengths were different for men and women. In women, the ring finger and index finger tend to be similar lengths, but in men, the ring finger is usually longer than the index and may match the length of the middle finger instead. Finger length is measured from the crease in the palm at the base of the finger.

A few years back, it was found that there is a link between levels of exposure to testosterone during development in the womb and the length of the ring finger. Both male and female fetuses are exposed to male and female hormones in the womb but males have greater exposure to testosterone during this development. However, levels of exposure vary for individuals.

“

In 2004, a German study found a correlation between finger length and spatial skills, such as map reading and numerical ability.

”

Since then, a number of interesting links between finger length and other traits have been uncovered. In 2004, a German study found a correlation between finger length and spatial skills, such as map reading, and numerical ability. In this study, men, who typically have longer ring fingers, did better on these tests than most women, but women with

longer than usual ring fingers, more “male-like” finger ratios, did better on the tests than women with the more typical equal-length ring and index fingers.

Earlier studies indicated a link between fertility and longer ring fingers for men and between fertility and longer index fingers for women. A 2001 study found a link between finger length in boys and likelihood of early death by heart attack, which can be influenced by testosterone levels. This study found that boys with shorter ring fingers, who had lower exposure to testosterone in the womb, were at a greater risk of early heart disease. The proportions of the fingers seen in children are the same as in adulthood for an individual, so the trait can serve as an early indicator for those most at risk for heart disease.

Pending studies are going to look for a link between depression and shorter ring fingers in men, more like the female finger length ratio. Depression is more common in women and studies have indicated some innate predisposition to it. There have even been some controversial studies that suggested a link between relative finger length ratios and homosexuality for women, but found no link between the two for men.

A number of these studies are intriguing but because they depend on averages, they can not be used to make predictions or assessments about individuals. Hopefully, no overeager university will have women submit to finger ratio analysis before admitting them to mathematics programs. Except for the correlation between shorter ring finger and increased chance of early heart disease for young boys, which can be used to take precautionary steps to head off health threats, most of these links are just curious bits of information for the individual. But I bet you will want to compare finger lengths with your friends and make your own assessment on whether the findings hold true for you.

INTERN DIARIES

Gary gets his money’s worth at Saturday Night Live set



GARY SOHN
New York Correspondent

Will Rogers, humorist and showman, once said, “Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

After getting Cheese Stick’s digital beta tape from the second floor editing room, I passed by the Saturday Night Live set and headed towards the elevator. As I was turning around the corner I heard someone say, “Clear the way.”

“Clear the way?” I looked around. “I’m the only person in the hallway,” I thought.

Turning the corner, I saw a large group, made up of about 15 to 20 people smashed together, dressed in hip-hop apparel. Scanning through the crowd, I was shocked when I noticed that one of the people in the group was rapper: 50 Cent.

I knew it was 50 Cent as soon as I saw his recognizable smile. He stood in the center of the group with some rather large bodyguards in the front of him, and some very beautiful women following close behind. The group of people acted like planets around a sun; I could really feel the energy and attention of the group as they gravitated around 50 Cent like planets do around a sun.

Imagine just walking through the hallway at your job, going on an errand or for a soda or whatever, and

then finding yourself all of the sudden in the presence of a celebrity who has sold over 11 million albums worldwide. I don’t care if you’re not the type of person who gets starstruck. You have to be at least mildly curious about someone who used words to rise above daily existence.

I was shocked. I felt like someone punched me in the stomach. Maybe that’s why I accidentally blurted out, “Holy cow, it’s 50 Cent!”

50 Cent must have heard me say something because he immediately turned and asked someone in his entourage what I had said. I started to panic because the interns are not allowed to talk directly to the talent unless they speak to us first.

I said, this time to myself, “Man, I am such an idiot. Why did I say that out loud? Oh man, I hope I am not in trouble for this. I don’t want to lose my internship. I don’t want to get roughed up by the bodyguards. I’ll just pretend I didn’t say anything.”

As they passed me me, 50 Cent turned his head back to look at me and said, “No, it’s not. Who told you that?” Everyone in the group, including the multi-millionaire celebrity, laughed.

I knew it was him for sure when I saw his arms around Lloyd Banks and Young Buck, members of his musical group, G-Unit.

After running into 50 Cent and the G-Unit crew, I felt a burst of energy. This whole week I had been anxious to meet some real celebrities. Bob, an intern who has an office next door to mine, had told me about how he had gotten on the elevator with Paris Hilton the same week when she was hosting SNL.

Jealousy had filled me. I would not have minded riding in the elevator with a billionaire hotel heiress. I mean who knows? She could have found me attractive, funny and interesting. We could have been like Britney Spears and Kevin Federline.

I can see it now: Ordinary guy, hard-working guy, with a ‘simple life,’ meets a beautiful hotel heiress and the two fall madly in love. We begin dating, get engaged and jet all around the world. We pop in and out of luxurious Hilton hotels making tasteful ‘home movies’ of our adventures.

Back in reality, I headed up to the fifteenth floor with Cheese Stick’s tape. I began singing a 50 Cent song “If I can’t do it, homie, it can’t be done. Now Ima let the champagne bottle pop, Ima take it to the top, Fo’ sho, Ima make it hot, baby (baby).”

I was alone in the elevator, so I started moving back and forth to the music as I sang. Nobody else could see me celebrating, so I let loose. Bobbing my head up and down, I happened to look over my shoulder and noticed a glass eye with a black square box staring at me. Security cameras.

I quickly stopped dancing and rushed out the elevator as soon as the doors opened to my floor. After handing Cheese Stick his tape, I went and told Bob about my celebrity encounter. Envious, he told me about his morning run in with Hillary Swank (who was hosting SNL while 50 Cent performed that week). As an amateur actor, I would have much rather met the two-time Oscar winner.

Back in my office, I decided to look for an agent online. I Googled “acting agents New York,” and was given several links to hundreds of agencies in town. I wrote down a long list of agents in Manhattan.

While writing down my list of agencies, Cheese Stick popped his head into the doorway.

“Hey Guy, busy? I’ve got something for you. Follow me,” he commanded.

Stay tuned next week when Gary redeems himself with Cheese Stick and survives a dangerous blizzard.

3 CONTESTS
3 \$3,000 CASH PRIZES

ART

website

Essay

The CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES at University of Missouri-St. Louis is sponsoring three annual contests for the best student artwork, essay and website on:

UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24: A WORLD HOLIDAY



These contests were established by DOROTHY SCHNEIDER, former Red Cross overseas worker, college faculty member (English Department) in San Diego, and St. Charles, Missouri, and author of the UN Resolution to create United Nations Day as an international holiday.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS students interested in competing for: 1. the ART prize must submit a personal art representation; 2. the ESSAY prize must submit two or three pages, typed, double spaced, on standard 8.5" X 11" white paper; or 3. the WEBSITE prize must submit a website design on CD.

To be eligible, the submissions must include the words “UNITED NATIONS DAY (OCTOBER 24)”, “ANNUAL WORLD HOLIDAY” and include the following ideas:

Visualize United Nations Day as a world holiday.

How would the United Nations Day World Holiday benefit the world?

What can I do to make United Nations Day a world holiday?

A panel of three judges from the University of Missouri-St. Louis will judge the contests. Essays and Websites will be judged on content and style, Art will be judged on content and design. All entries must avoid plagiarism and partisan politics. All entries become the property of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Participation is voluntary and previous winners are ineligible. Only one winner per contest will be selected. The winners will be announced in late April at a reception in honor of United Nations Day.

ENTRY DEADLINE: THURSDAY MARCH 31, 2005

For more information, contact: MIKE COSTELLO
Center for International Studies
Room 366, Social Sciences and Business Building
516-6454 - costellom@umsl.edu

What do the readers think?
Results from the web poll:

How do you feel about
the new campus lakes?

I love them. The landscape adds
so much to UMSL’s appearance. 50%

Not a fan. They’re just another
spot for the geese to take over. 0%

That’s just good parking
space going to waste. 33%

We have lakes? 17%

Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

*www.thecurrentonline.com does not limit votes per person, and the poll is not a scientific sampling.

The Current is now accepting applications for
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Applicants need:

- 1 resume and cover letter
- 3 letters of recommendation
- 2.0 grade point average
- Must be UMSL students with at least 9 credit hours

DEADLINE MARCH 11, 5 P.M.

Turn in resume addressed to Kate Drolet at 388 MSC

FEATURES

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

the week's

best

bets

Tues. March 8

Midterm Stress

Relief Fair

Stress comes to a pinnacle during midterms, as projects, papers and responsibilities pile up. This event, sponsored by the Office of Multi-Cultural Relations, is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 190 MSC. Visitors will find health screenings, healthy snacks, wellness information, and free professional massages. Call 6807 for more info.

Wed. March 9

HIV/Risky Behavior

Discussion

"Think you're safe?" A nursing professor and psychology professor will discuss behaviors that put students at risk for contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. The event will begin at 12:30 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. Call 5581 for more info.

Pan-Africanism spreads to UMSL

BY CHRYSTAL HOLMES
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis's Pan African Association works to implement its plan to unite Africans born in and outside of the continent as one.

Kuumba Chi Nia, junior, mass communication, is president of the Pan African Association at UM-St. Louis. Nia says that the purpose of the association is to educate and bring social awareness to the campus about Pan Africanism as a concept.

"We want to show that there is a connection," Nia said. "Our mission is to show that there is a connection between all African people, regardless of where we find ourselves."

Nia personally defines Pan

Africanism as the total unification and liberation of Africa under scientific socialist governments.

"Michael Perkins started the Pan African Organization as it was initially called," Nia said, "which actually is an offshoot of the Pan African Research Organization of St. Louis Community College."

Nia said that the Pan African Association has been at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park longer than it has been at UM-St. Louis. He also noted that this particular location has developed more relationships with international people, organizations and associations and has networked with various groups in the world.

Nia said that Africanism is about political education, making a lot of

UM-St. Louis Pan African Association
For more information, contact adviser Rochelle DeClue Walker at 516-5532

connections, developing programs and implementing things for students. He finds the concept of Africanism on campuses in the St. Louis area interesting.

"When you think about the concept of Africanism on the campuses you will find that there are some connecting points, for example, the sisterhood exchange that started at UMSL transferred itself to the African Sisterhood Exchange at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park,"

Nia said. "Pan Africanism doesn't pre-suppose a micro nationalist concept where we have to focus on only the immediate area; when we talk about Pan Africanism we are already talking about something that's big..."

Rochelle DeClue, alum of UM-St. Louis' African American chapter of the Alumni Association, is also an advisor of the Pan African Association and has been active with the association since its beginnings with former president Michael Perkins.

DeClue said that initially there were more students from the continent of Africa that were involved in the association.

"They wanted the University community and the community at large to be more aware of Africa," said DeClue.

Nia said that one of the goals that the association wanted to accomplish was to have more involvement of African Americans; however, all native born Africans and African Americans are welcome to join the association.

"I would like to see more student involvement," DeClue said. "I think that's so critical."

The association works closely with UM-St. Louis' Multicultural Affairs.

Future plans of the association include an International Women's Conference on March 21 and the organization for a committee for African Liberation Day.

For more information about the Pan African Association send an e-mail to kuumbachinia@yahoo.com or call Rochelle DeClue at 516-5532.

Student 3-D artwork is on display at FAB

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Gallery FAB is currently displaying "3D Dimensia," an exhibit featuring artwork created by UM-St. Louis art students.

Michael Behle, assistant adjunct professor of art, said that the main purpose of this exhibit is to draw more attention to the 3-D art program at UM-St. Louis since it is relatively only a few years old, and to give the art students more recognition for their work.

"The artwork by the students is comprised of design, ceramics and sculpture I, II and III classes," Behle said.

Behle said that the majority of the pieces were created in the fall 2004 semester and from this semester.

Over 30 different art pieces line the main entrance and hallway of the Fine Arts Building.

All of the pieces focus on design, texture and line perspectives surrounding the 3-D form.

Some of the pieces include "Strength in Numbers" by J.J. Malone, "Conversations" by Nicole Northway, "Penguin" by John Schultz, "Jellyfish" by Candy Low, "Perception" by Stephanie Diehl and "Alive" by Nathan Paul.

When people enter the gallery, they might notice the first piece along the right side of the wall that contains three different bear sculptures. The idea of this piece came out of the Design III class. The artist, Bianca Bonner, created the three bears out of different materials and context textures.

The first bear was done using bubble wrap as its media. The other two bears were created from wood,

block, plaster and paint. All three bears have a variety of variable dimensions.

"The piece in the doorway is looking at and focusing on line in a 3-D way. This piece was created by using numerous strings which lead to vanishing points," Behle said.

The piece by the doorway, titled "Jellyfish" by Candy Low, is the piece that focuses on series of lines by intertwining many strings.

Nicole Northway combines plaster and acrylic with variable dimensions to design Valentines Hearts with some obscene messages like "Go to hell," "Don't Leave Me" and "Come on baby you know you want it," in her piece "Conversations."

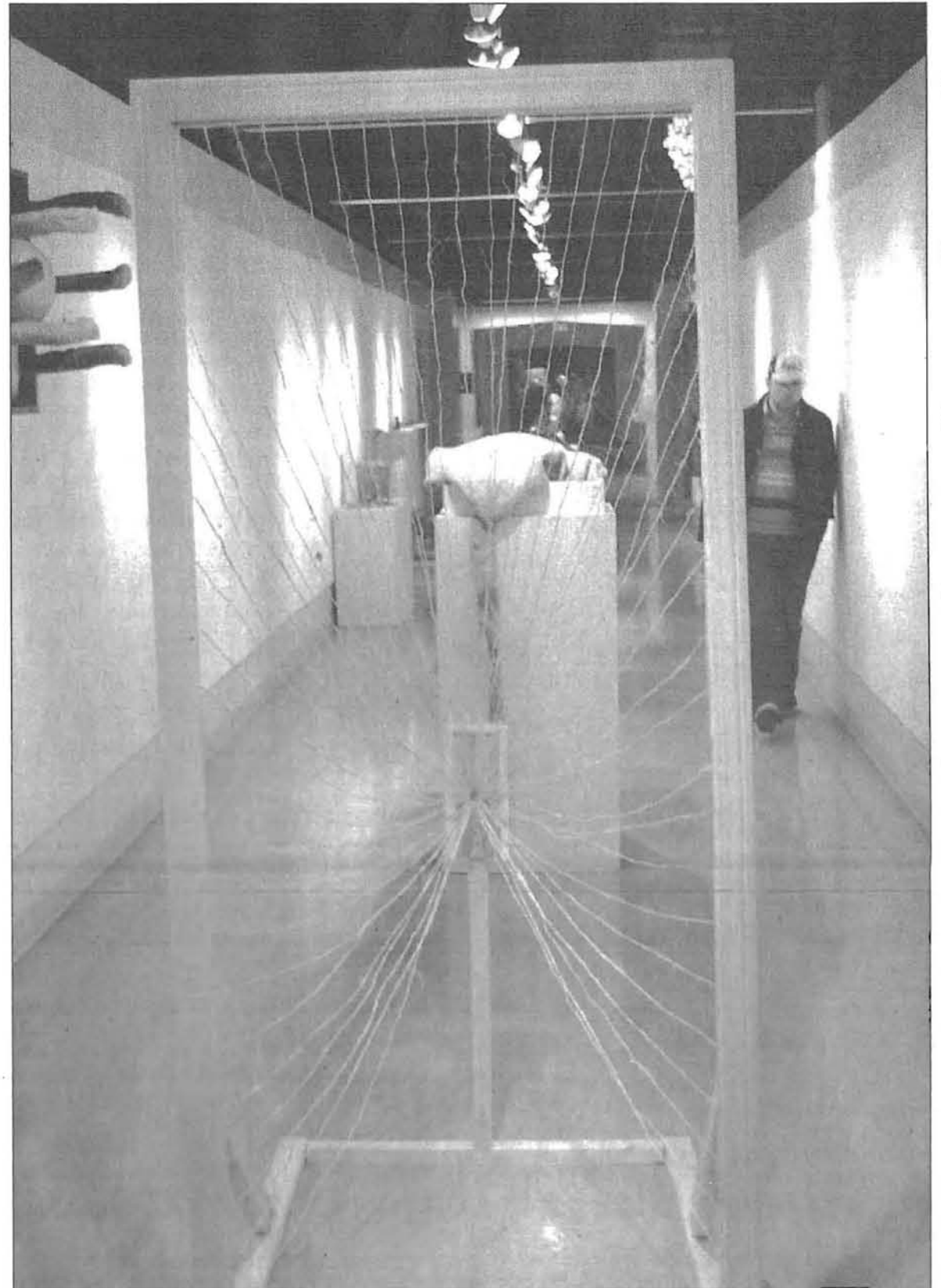
Ceramic smoke fired stoneware, glazed stoneware and wire sculptures are a few of the other pieces of work, by Laticia Smith, Kari Stines, Terry Gbur and other art students.

"I enjoy all of the work presented by the sculpture, painting and design classes," art administrative assistant Dena Woods said.

The opening reception for this exhibit was held on Thursday, March 3, where students had the opportunity to present their work to other faculty members, family and friends.

The curators and faculty members for "3D Dimensia" are Mike Behle, Jessica Cope and Greg Edmondson. It is also sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History.

This exhibit is free and open to the public until April 7. Gallery FAB is located in the Fine Arts Building on Florissant Road and Rosedale Drive. Hours for the gallery are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.



Stephanie Diehl's masterpiece in "Perception" takes 3-dimensional abstract art to the next level. Her piece and others are currently featured in the Fine Arts Building's "3D Dimensia" showcase.

UMSL holds book drive to help Wentzville high school's library

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Imagine going to a school that had no library or no books. How can students complete a book report if no books are available? Timberland High School, located in Wentzville, has asked UM-St. Louis's help with filling the empty shelves in their library.

During the Women's History Month Celebration, held in the Pilot House on Thursday, March 3, a graduate of Timberland high school opened the event describing the current UM-St. Louis book drive contest.

Megan Rhodes, freshman, nursing, said that the reason Timberland's library is in desperate need of books is because the school has only been opened for the last five years and their newly built library does not have enough books for research and reading enjoyment.

"My class was the first senior class to graduate after completing all four years in the newly built school," Rhodes said. "I realized how hard college preparation was after not having a library and only having access to Internet research, rather than books."

Book Drive for Timberland High School
Collecting new or good used books through April 14. Books can be dropped off at the Bookstore, Gallery Visio, or the residential halls.

Rhodes said that the idea to host this book drive came from Pat Johnson, Gallery Visio Manager, who wanted to complete this as a community project.

"I was considering taking an art certification course when Linda Chiles, Program Coordinator for video resources, was giving a multimedia presentation and began discussing different school district's budget cuts," Johnson said.

Johnson said that after Chiles had mentioned the budget cuts at Timberland High School and how last semester the school did not even have a librarian, she became motivated to help.

Johnson said she is saddened by the school's financial distress.

"We have tons of money to buy war supplies and weapons, but here there is a school that can't even

afford to buy books," she said.

Currently, Timberland's library is short 2,000 books. The high school supplied UM-St. Louis a book request list, asking for over 100 books that the school needs.

Some of the requested books include "Death of a Salesman," "The Glass Menagerie," "The Norton Anthology of Poetry," "Rip Van Winkle," "Schindler's List" and "Inferno."

The majority of the requested books are fiction, but Timberland faculty members said that they would be grateful for anything, as long as they can fill their shelves and make the library more appealing.

"Books make education possible" is the theme of this book drive and is sponsored by Gallery Visio, the UM-St. Louis Book Store and Sigma Gamma RHO sorority.

Rhodes said that there have only been about 55 books collected and some donations given.

"We need more than this to make the library complete," Rhodes said.

New or good used books and donations will be collected until April 14 and can be dropped off at the Bookstore, Gallery Visio or the residential halls.

Weinman lecture highlights cognitive processing therapy

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

On Feb. 28, spectators gathered at the Kathy J. Weinman Advocacy Centre's auditorium to listen to Tara Galovski, assistant research professor at UM-St. Louis, discuss cognitive processing therapy and describe the future research plans and the grants provided for this form of therapy.

Along with Galovski, other contributors, Patricia A. Resick, Michael Griffin, Ana Sobel and Kelly Phipps, put together research for cognitive process therapy. After receiving a grant for 12 sessions of cognitive therapy, Galovski has gathered women and men to participate in this study.

According to the website www.cognitivetherapy.com, cognitive behavioral therapy combines two very effective kinds of psychotherapy and is effective for those who have experienced depression, mood swings, shyness, social anxiety, panic attacks, phobias obsessions and compulsions, chronic anxiety, post-traumatic stress symptoms, eating disorders or insomnia.

To participate in the Cognitive Processing Therapy research at UM-St. Louis, a person must be exposed to trauma. The person can

experience the trauma by being threatened in a harmful way, or just by witnessing the action taking place. Many who experience this kind of trauma develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Someone with PTSD might experience several mental issues after the trauma's occurrence.

Re-experiencing, the first symptom, includes flashbacks, memories and bad dreams. For instance, when a soldier comes back from fighting in war, a simple sound might trigger flashbacks of the war. Another would be a rape victim who is doing dishes and listening to the radio; a certain song she might hear could remind her of the rape.

Avoidance, the second, includes avoiding persons, places and things, driving out of the way, amnesia and loss of interest. A person who has experienced a traumatic event might do everything possible to avoid where the incident occurred.

Finally, arousal, which includes difficulty falling asleep, startling easily and having trouble concentrating. A person suffering from a particular trauma might have consistent problems sleeping or might not be able to sleep because of the fear of something else bad happening.

20 years after the revolution

■ Author speaks on revisiting Iran

BY SHANTE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Rays of sunshine highlighted the face of American author Terence Ward as he shared with the Iranian community and the general public his first book titled "Searching for Hassan" at the St. Louis County Library headquarters last Saturday afternoon.

Besides being a successful writer, Ward has also been a consultant for multi-national companies, foundations and governments in the Islamic World and the West. Ward has also gained prestigious recognition from traveling and holding numerous lectures throughout the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean and the United States.

In his recent published book, "Searching for Hassan," he tells the true story his family, who in 1998 set out on a long-awaited pilgrimage back

home — to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where they lived in the 1960s. This book also describes his family's return to the country, 20 years after the Islamic Revolution.

Since the fall of the Shah in 1979, the country and its past were effectively sealed off behind a veil of secrecy, and contact with one dear friend in particular, Hassan, had ceased. But memories of life in this land inspired the Wards to return and search for Hassan and his family.

Ward said that although the book describes a very heartfelt and passionate journey to find Hassan and his family, he also wrote the book to show the other face of Iran.

"For the last 20 years, news on Iran has been very dark and bleak. With the American media the preconceived ideas are set in stone," Ward said.

Ward said that he went on a journey to write something beyond the politics and his personal story paved the way. His story gives a cultural, historical and political insight on his views of Iran and the Middle East.

"For Americans trying to understand the culture, one of the best places to start is with the poetry of Hafez, an Iranian poet, because it goes beyond the politics," Ward said.

Ward, an American and Irish citizen who lives in Florence, Italy with his wife, said that Iran has a rich and ancient past as well as an artistic culture.

After speaking with the audience of about 50 people for over an hour, Ward opened the floor up for questions.

"How did the people in Iran treat you and your family?" asked a woman in the audience.

"I don't know what other people would see but we saw generosity,

kindness, humor. The opposite of what the American media would tell you."

Ward is doing what he believes is his part to inform people of the culture of Iran because people are searching for more information, as he stated.

"During these tough times, the politics of fear is suffocating human understanding," Ward said.

"Let's please keep in mind that the war is between the government and not the people," another Iranian female said.

This author and book signing event was sponsored by the Iranian Cultural Society of the Midwest.

The St. Louis County Library Headquarters Branch is located on Lindbergh at Clayton Road. To find information about all upcoming events and book author signings, visit www.slcl.org/events/upauthorvisits.htm.



Terry Ward, author of "Searching for Hassan," talks about his memories from the past when he lived in Tehran, Iran. This unforgettable discussion was held at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Tenaz Shrivastava/The Current

Enterprising UMSL alumnus establishes local courier company

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

A former UM-St. Louis student, who graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor's Degree in science and business administration, is the current owner and president of a fast-growing St. Louis courier company, Arch Express.

John Goessling said he feels that studying at UM-St. Louis was very beneficial to his career path.

"It taught me to manage my time and money so I could attend college and support myself, similar to most students who attend UMSL," Goessling said.

Many teachers and advisors were inspirations to him.

"I had many wonderful teachers, but I would say the advisors Marilyn Brinkman, Ric Blanton and accounting professor Dave Gentz were most helpful with their words of wisdom."

During his time as a student, he was the Treasurer for the Sigma Pi Fraternity, attended numerous sports events and still makes annual donations, in addition to being a brother to the fraternity.



"I work to live, not live to work, that's the nice thing about having your own business," says UM St. Louis Alumnus, John Goessling. He takes a moment to pose in front of his business logo, Arch Express, a same day delivery service for St. Louis.

Erica Burrus/The Current

"UMSL was very competitive in soccer, baseball and basketball during my tenure, which provided a lot of great games. I was very fortunate to stay in town to attend college, live at home and watch my brother Jim play basketball for the Rivermen," he said.

Goessling said that he had always wanted to work in an accounting firm.

"Upon graduation, I worked with

Goessling described his first job out of college, being a controller for CF Vatterot.

"I kept the books for three wholesale distributors (Dealers Service and Supply Company- who are still very much in business today) of building products. I worked for a great boss, Gerald Holden, who showed me what the real business world was all about."

His current business, Arch Express, is a courier company located in the Westport area that delivers anything from small envelopes to large cargo packages to other businesses in Missouri and Illinois. The company is also a same day delivery business that provides necessary paperwork to its customers.

One of Goessling's employees, Robert Alton Clarke, is a junior and public policy and administration major at UM-St. Louis.

By staying connected to the University through the Sigma Pi brotherhood, Goessling was introduced to Clarke, a current fraternity member and previous Vice President of Student Government.

"A friend of mine worked for the company as a driver and I needed a job, so I went to work for Arch as a driver last year. I left for a few months and came back to work in the operations side as a dispatcher," Clarke said.

Clarke said that something that he has learned from attending UM-St. Louis and with working with the company is the value of a strong work ethic and the importance of time management since it can be hard to balance school, work, fraternity, student organizations, family and personal affairs.

Goessling said that there are many factors that students who are looking to start their own business or get into the business related field should take in consideration.

"Be prepared to work many hours, compile cash-flow projections and review often, surround yourself with quality individuals, don't be afraid to ask for help, treat your customers and employees like you want to be treated and sell, sell, sell," Goessling said.

More information about Arch Express can be found at www.stlarchexpress.com.

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THERAPY LECTURE, from page 6

Galovski takes the participants through a 12 step program. One of the main key elements to this program is exposure. Some participants quit during this critical exposure stage.

During the first step of the exposure stage, the participant realizes and recognizes their avoidance problems. The person must write what happened down and read it out loud. Not just once, but repeatedly, at home or in front of someone else.

Throughout the cognitive process, many of the participant's thoughts and feelings become distorted occurrences from the trauma. Galovski said that sometimes participant conflicts can arise.

"We want to get the participants beyond PTSD," Galovski stated. "For the most part they come in because they cannot socialize, go to work or even be intimate with their partner—and we want to help them."

Galovski discovered that males do very well with the therapy, while most females get worse before they get better. During the exposure part of the therapy, the females may not respond as fast because they have to "relive" the trauma.

Some of the participants drop out, while others only need only a few sessions and they are on their way back to a normal life. Although many participants need all 12 sessions to recover, others require even more help. Most of the participants benefit from the grant.


The lecture was sponsored by the Center for Trauma Recovery at UM-St. Louis and was a part of the Center for Trauma Recovery's monthly colloquium series.

For details about receiving Cognitive Processing Therapy call 516-6738.

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SPORTS

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Sports Editor

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Knezevic to coach tennis

BY BRYAN BOEDEKER
Staff Writer

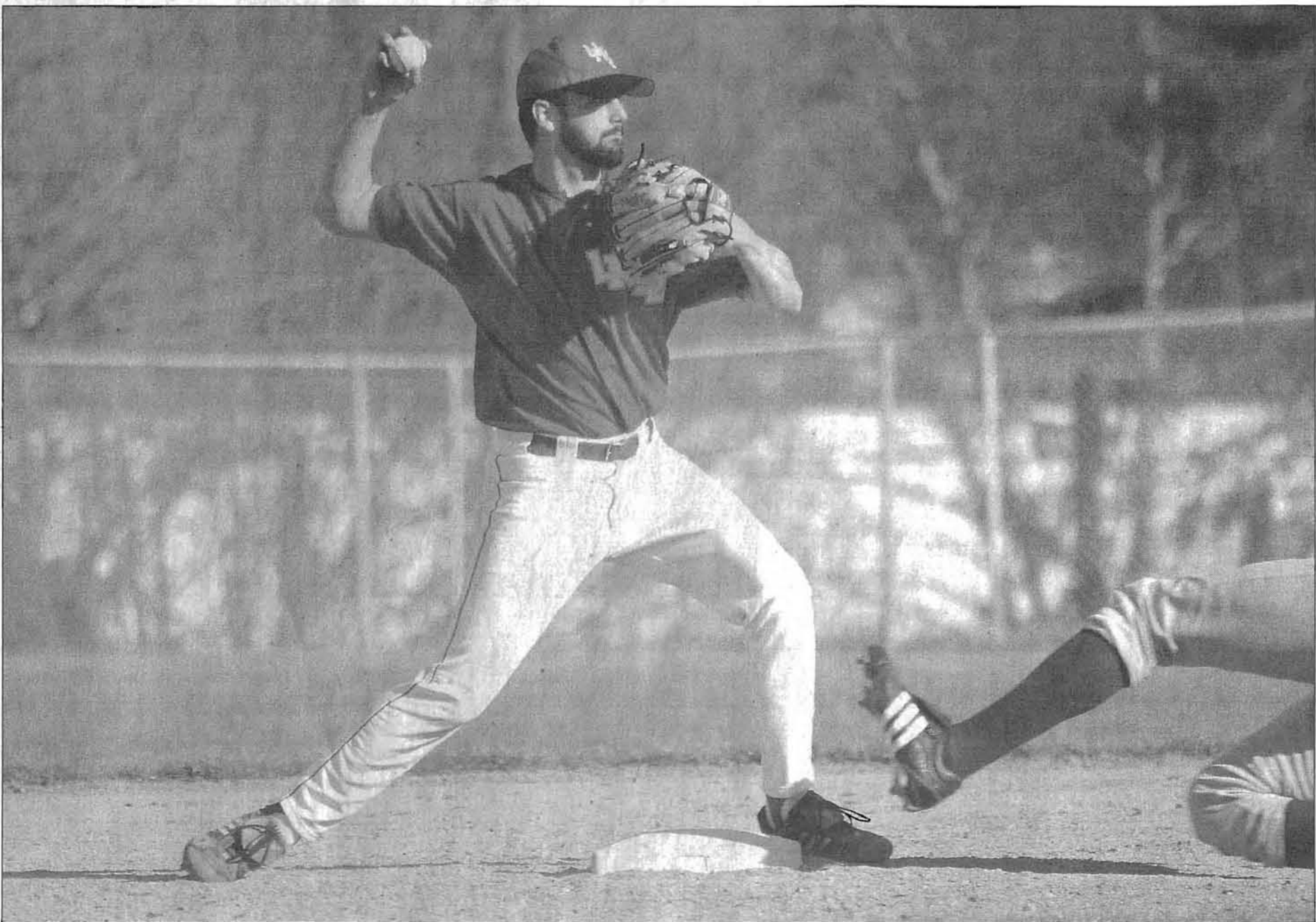
UM-St. Louis Athletic Director Pat Dolan announced Friday, Feb. 26 that Filip Knezevic will become the new head coach for the women's tennis team. The 23-year-old Knezevic replaces Jason Hanes, who resigned after last season after only one year at the helm.

Knezevic is originally from the former Yugoslavia now known as Serbia and Montenegro. He was a four year tennis player at Southwest Missouri State University and is only one year removed from his playing career for the Bears. He has spent the past year coaching and teaching at Sunset Hills Country Club. According to Dolan a few members of the athletic department staff were familiar with him from the country club, which was a factor in his eventual hiring.

Knezevic inherits a squad that finished last season with a 2-8 mark. They will retain only 3 members from last year's team, so his coaching duties will begin immediately. "One of the biggest tasks in front of him (Knezevic) is recruiting," Dolan said. "Coach Hanes left a list of players to go after for the next coach. So he'll most likely start there."

Turning around the women's tennis program immediately is going to be a tall order for the young Knezevic, but Dolan feels that UM-St. Louis has the right person for the job. "He has a lot of experience teaching and communicating the game of tennis to people with less skill than he has," Dolan said. "And he brings a lot of energy to his job, which is something we want all our coaches to have."

You know it's almost spring...when the baseballs start flying



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Rivermen second baseman Josh Thomas gets ready to complet the double play with a throw to first after tagging out a Hillsdale runner on Sunday afternoon.

Rivermen drop three games in a row

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis baseball team started off in the wrong direction to open the season, dropping three straight games a week ago. The Rivermen matched up against two recently acquired rivals, the University of Central Arkansas and Missouri Western University.

On the first day of play, the Rivermen got it handed to them in the opener as they fell by the score of 13-6 to Missouri Western. They then proceeded later that day to lose the next game by an even larger margin of 15-4 to Central Arkansas.

In the opening game, Rivermen outfielder Josh Morgan started the game with a solo home run to get the Rivermen on top early in the top of the first inning. The lead was short lived as Missouri Western took the lead right back only an inning later with two runs of their own, and they then added to that lead with three runs in the fourth and again with seven more runs in the fifth. The Rivermen only managed to score three late runs in the sixth and two in the seventh, but to no avail, as they would lose. Senior Tom Anderson had a two-run single in the sixth inning and Derek

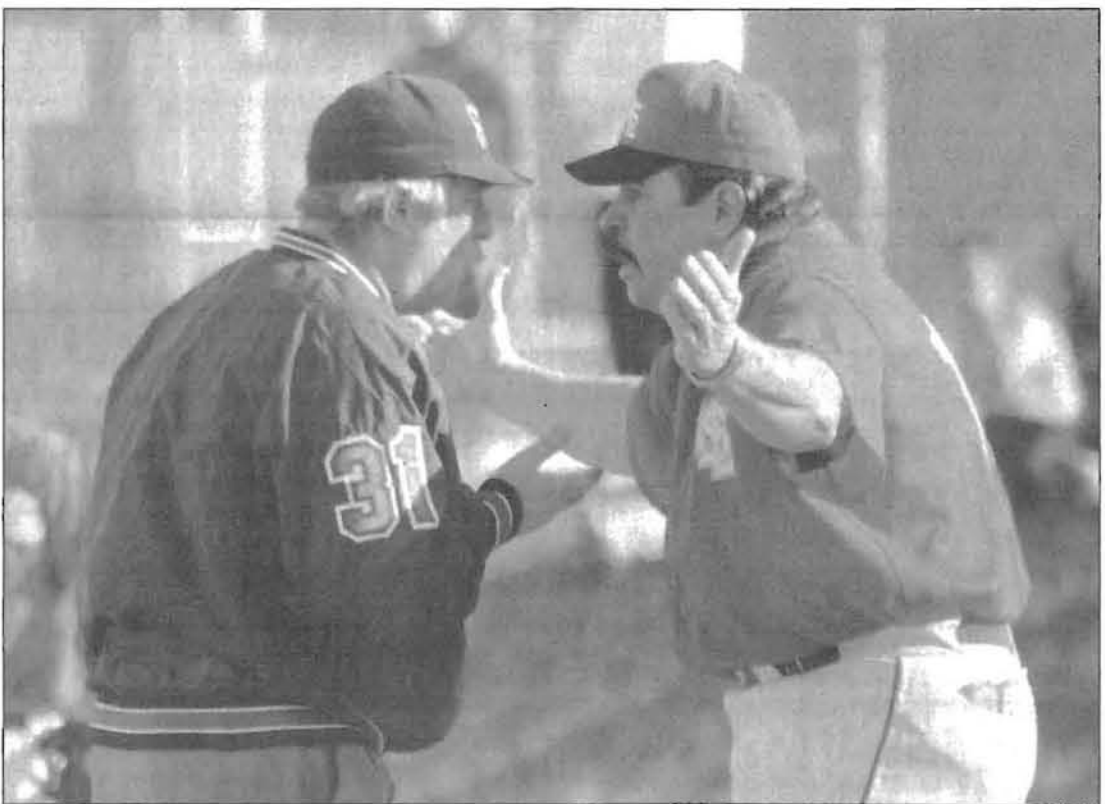
Becker and Matt Rose each had an RBI single in the seventh.

Senior Tom Anderson commented on the game. "We came out excited to play and we started well, but we couldn't find a rhythm and throughout the game we struggled at times, but we are hoping to put this behind us and move on to the next few games," Anderson said.

During the second game against Central Arkansas, the Rivermen grabbed a quick lead once again by getting two runs in the top of the first as Morgan led off with a base hit and junior Adam Whitehead followed with a two-run homer. Just as the last game had turned, so did this one as Central Arkansas tied the game with two runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning and took the lead with another run in the second. They then added four more runs in the fifth inning, putting the Rivermen into another deep hole.

The Rivermen made an attempt to cut into that lead in the sixth as junior Josh Thomas and senior Steven McCoy each knocked in a run to make it a 7-4 game, but it didn't take Central Arkansas long to respond as they added eight runs in the final two innings for the win.

After losing the first two the Rivermen were determined to get



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Baseball head coach Jim Brady argues a call with an umpire during the Rivermen's game against Hillsdale on Sunday afternoon.

a win as they moved into the last day of play. They took on the same Missouri Western team that they had the previous morning, but again came up short as they eventually lost a close one, 5-3.

Senior Colby Hughes commented on the game. "It just wasn't our weekend. We didn't get runs when we had the chances and we paid for it, and now we need to move on from it," Hughes said.

The Rivermen hope to improve their record in the next few weeks as they open up conference play, when they play host to conference rival Lewis University on March 19.

S. Indiana U. eliminates UMSL from GLVC tourney

With 17 points, Jonathan Griffin led the Rivermen in UM-St. Louis' final GLVC basketball match. The Rivermen lost to nationally ranked Southern Indiana University. UM-St. Louis finished the season with a 9-19 record and a spot in the GLVC tournament.



JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team ended their season with a 93-63 loss to nationally ranked Southern Indiana University. The team ended their season with a 9-19 record and their first appearance at the GLVC Tournament in five years.

Just making the appearance has been an accomplishment for this team, and Head Coach Chris Pilz is already looking forward to next year.

"We cannot lose a moment. I am giving the guys a well earned three days off, then we start the off-season lifting. There are only 362 days until the next conference tournament," Pilz said.

The game was tied only once, after three minutes of play. Southern Indiana got the first five points of the game, and the Rivermen were able to tie it at five three minutes into the game. Then

Southern Indiana jumped out to a 13-6 lead behind three-pointers and field goals inside the paint. The Rivermen managed to keep Southern Indiana's lead in the single digits until 8:56 in the first half.

“
We played against the number four team in the nation... We did not play bad, they just really played like a top team.
- Coach Chris Pilz
”

Aaron Green hit a three-point-er to bring the Rivermen within seven, 23-16. After that it was all down hill. Southern Indiana built on their lead and by half time led 43-27.

In the second half the

Rivermen chipped away at the lead for the first four minutes. Behind a three-pointer by Joey Paul and a lay-up by David Ward the Rivermen got to within 12 at 51-39. Southern Indiana got a three-point play that sparked a 12-0 run, giving them a more than comfortable 24 point lead. The Rivermen never got close from that point on and at one point even trailed by 35.

According to Pilz the team did not lack effort. "We played against the number four team in the nation, and they played like one of the best. We did not play bad, they just really played like a top team. They had four or five guys in double figures, so they found ways to beat us," Pilz said.

Jonathan Griffin, who was selected as second team all-conference, led the team with 17 points. Paul added 14 and Sherome Cole came off of the bench to score 10. Southern Indiana shot an incredible 64.3% for the game, including 77.3% in the first half.

National Championship bound...



ABOVE: Rivermen inline Hockey goaltender Thomas Ames makes a save during the regional championship game Sunday against Washington University. Ames saved 26 of 27 shots against goal. UM-St. Louis swept through the regionals, winning all of their four games. The Rivermen are now heading to the national championships in Fort Collins, Colorado.

RIGHT: Rivermen inline hockey team captain James Wetton beams as he brings over the trophy the team earned by winning the regional championships on Sunday afternoon in St. Peters. The Rivermen defeated Wash. U. 6-1.



Riverwomen need time to grow, coach says

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

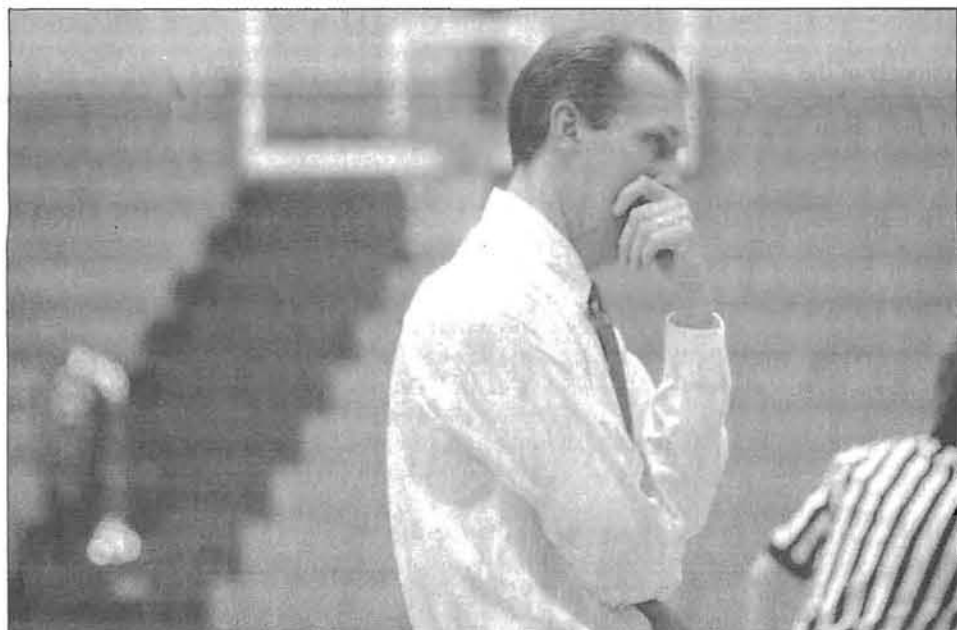
For the second straight year the GLVC women's basketball tournament was held with one glaring omission: the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen. In the GLVC only the top 8 teams participate in the tournament and at 6-21, 2-18 in conference, the Riverwomen once again failed to qualify.

While disappointed by this season's outcome, Coach Lee Buchanan did see improvement in the play of his team despite their record. "I felt last year we were just trying to survive," he said, "we were really competitive this year and we hope to take it a step further next year and win more games."

Last year the team scored an average of 56 points per game and allowed an average of 69 points per game. This year they scored 63 points per game and once again allowed 69 points per game. That is in fact a good sign of the team being more competitive despite the team recording one more loss than last year's club.

The constant theme of this year's team has been youth. Any time you incorporate seven newcomers into any basketball program it is more than likely going to take some time to see results. "This (rebuilding) is a process and it's frustrating for everyone. We've planted the seed here, now it just needs time to grow," Coach Buchanan said.

The upside of having so many freshmen contribute during the 2004-2005 women's basketball campaign is that the experience they gained this year will help them be even more prepared for next year's season. Hopefully this



Riverwomen basketball head coach Lee Buchanan says he thinks the team has taken positive steps this season, despite its 8-21 record.

year can be a stepping stone toward productive careers at this school.

Another bright spot for this year's club was the play of senior Kali Birkey. She was 13th in the conference in scoring, with 14.5 points per game, and seventh in rebounding at 6.4 a game. Sadly, Birkey's career comes to an end before this rebuilding process is complete.

Despite the loss of Birkey the Riverwomen still have reason to be optimistic with 9 returning players. Of those 9, 6 will be entering just their sophomore year. "We have a really young team," said freshman point guard

Courtney Watts, a key component in the rebuilding process. "As we get more experience playing with one another I think the success will come."

Entering his third season as head coach next year Buchanan knows the time is now to start winning on a more consistent basis. He also knows what needs to be done in order for that to happen. "Our defense has got to get a lot better and our work ethic on the basketball floor has got to go up," he said, "Recruiting is also huge right now, we need to keep bringing in good players."

Riverwomen softball team fares well at Evangel

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis softball team got the 2005 season off to a successful start, as they finish in third place out of 20 teams at the Evangel Early Bird Tournament in Springfield a week ago.

With the weekend's performance, the team is off to one of the best starts they have had in the past few seasons. The Riverwomen played five games in two days, smothering the competition in nearly every contest. They were perfect on the first day of play, winning all three games in pool play.

In the first game, the Riverwomen played a close one and had to come back from a one run deficit to win 2-1 in extra innings against Columbia College. Riverwomen senior Kim Kulaitis commented on the exciting game. "We

really played hard to get the win and I think it was good to play a close game so early. The more we play the better we can get and the more confident we can become," Kulaitis said.

The second game proved to be much less of a nail-biter as the Riverwomen trounced Trinity Christian College 7-0, scoring early and often when they needed it most. During the final game of the day, the Riverwomen played another tough one, as they finished off the perfect day with a 4-3 win against Midland Lutheran and looked to progress in the tournament the next morning as they moved on to the elimination rounds. The Riverwomen ended the day as one of only five teams left undefeated in the 20 team draw.

During the elimination rounds the next morning, the Riverwomen came out firing as they beat up on state rival Central Methodist 8-

3 to advance in the winners' bracket. The team scored five of its eight runs in the first four innings.

As they entered the next game all the team needed to do was win to secure the top spot in the tournament, but it was not to be as they fell in a closely played game 1-0 against Northwest Missouri State. With the loss the team finished in third place in the 20-team tournament.

Senior Kristen Economon talked about the weekend. "We did everything we needed to and started off the season on the right foot. All we can do now is hope to carry the momentum into the conference season in just a few weeks," she said.

The Riverwomen travel to Florida for a tournament before they open the rigorous conference season at home against rival Lewis University on April 2.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

What happened to the Riverwomen this season?

Young team, mixed styles contributed to losses

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team finished the season 6-21, one game worse than last year's 7-20 finish. At the beginning of the season I predicted that the team would be better, based on the quality of players that Coach Lee Buchanan had recruited. I maintain that the team was better and will go out on a limb and say that next year they will be much better.

There were a few things that kept the Riverwomen from reaching their potential this year. Among the many things that could have affected the Riverwomen's performance, there are two things in particular that stand out. The first, and perhaps the most obvious, is that the team was very young and inexperienced. The starting point guard, Courtney Watts, was a freshman out of

high school without any mentor at her position. I am sure that Nikki Jerome, the junior college transfer, helped her some, but Jerome herself was new to the Buchanan offensive. The player that notched the most minutes on the team was another freshman, Leslie Ricker. Ricker did her job well, but no coach would ever want a freshman to be filling the role of team leader on the floor.

Other freshmen like Amanda Miller, Taylor Gagliano, Abbie Thomas and Leslie Allrich also filled the ranks far too often. Recruiting a large freshman class is not a problem if there are core players already in place to lead, but this year's Riverwomen lacked that core. Which brings us to the second problem.

Kali Birkey, Crystal Lambert, Iesha Billups and Megan Alberts, the holdovers from last year's team, were not the same type of players as the recruits. Let me explain. Birkey and Lambert are excellent players. They have the ability to penetrate, shoot and defend. Billups and

Alberts are very tough down low and can battle with anyone. All of these players are excellent as individuals, but sometimes do not gel very well while on the court, at least not under Buchanan's particular system.

The freshman class that Buchanan has recruited is very different than the existing mold of players. Buchanan has recruited players that are going to become a machine as a team, with no one really standing out but everyone getting the job done. When these types of players are mixed with great individuals it can cause friction on the floor. Not that the players do not get along, they just have a different mentality, or different background. These differences cause problems when it comes to execution.

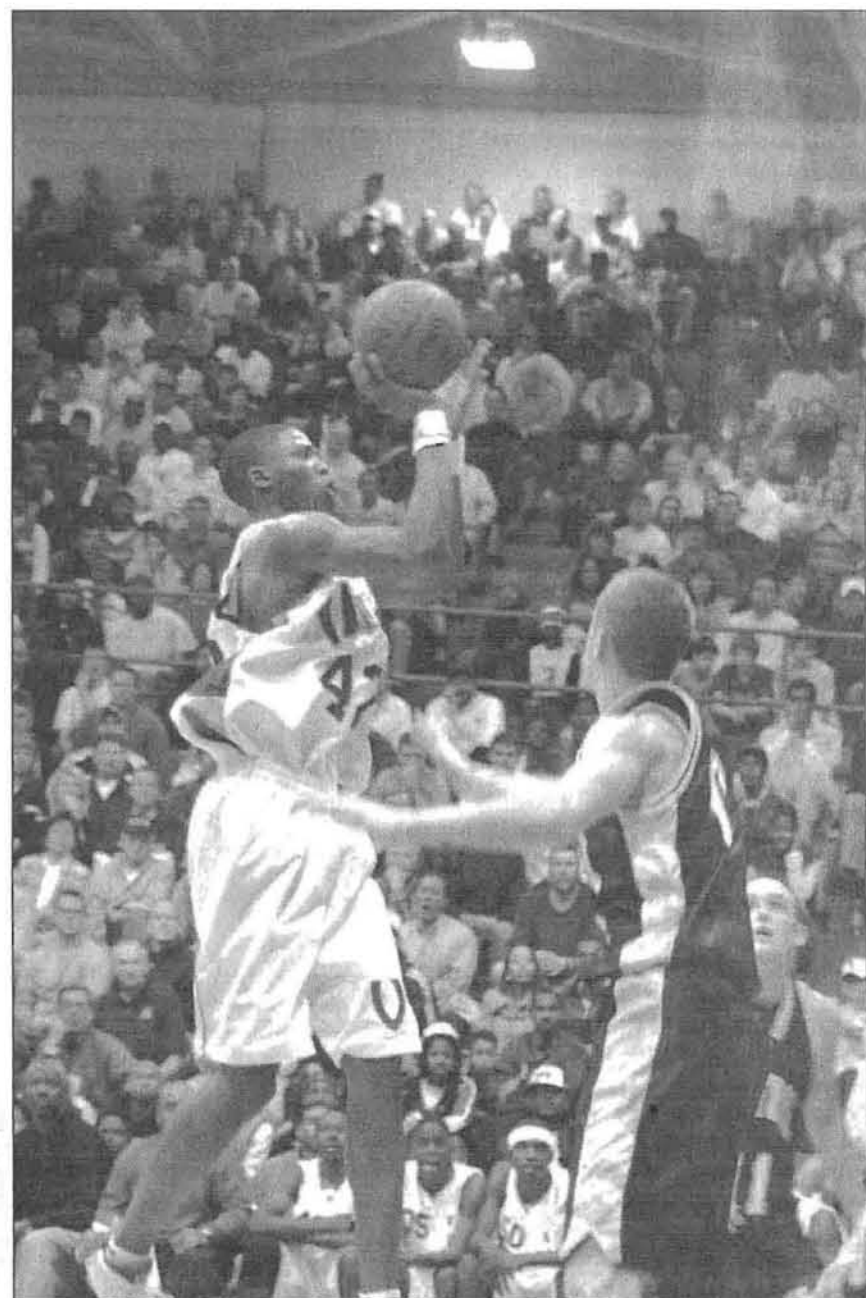
The reason that I think that the team is going to be much better next year is that the great individual players like Lambert, Billups, and Alberts (Birkey is graduating) will have more experience in the Buchanan system. On top of that the coach will have an opportunity to recruit more cogs for his machine. This year's freshmen will be experienced collegiate players next year.

The combination of immaturity and clashing styles led the team to take too many contested and off-balance shots, as well as way too many possessions without any field goal attempts at all. What I see happening next year is an exponential increase in production. Incredible shooters like Thomas and Lambert will get the chance to get open and hit three-pointers, and the spacing on the floor will increase enough to allow the Riverwomen to get more open looks. Every player on the team can knock down open shots and next year there will be an increase in those open shots.



BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

High school games make for a sold-out crowd at Mark Twain



Vashon High guard T. Gordon puts up a jumper in the crowded paint during her school's game against Central Howell High. A sold out crowd at the Mark Twain Athletic Complex witness the number one ranked high school team in the nation, Vashon High, take on the Central Howell High Spartans. Vashon continued their 57 game win streak with a 65-41 victory.

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A&E

EDITOR

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Symphonic
gospel choir
brings down
the house

BY MELIQUECIA MEADOWS
Staff Writer

Black History Month is officially over, but UM-St. Louis' celebration ended on a high note. Dello Thedford and the Gospel Symphonic Choir headlined a gospel extravaganza at the Touhill Monday night.

The event was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations and Academic Affairs and began with a welcome from director Gwendolyn D. Packnett. The Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was performed by Blanche Haley and the Rev. Al Bond provided the invocation.

Despite the freezing temperatures and snow, over 150 people turned out to hear some good gospel music and celebrate the last day of Black History Month on a high note. Chancellor George was on hand to welcome the crowd to the gospel fest, which featured several acts.

The male chorus from Westside Missionary Baptist Church performed first. They sang "I Need You to Survive," a popular gospel tune penned by singer Hezekiah Walker. Rev. Ronald L. Bobo, Sr., pastor of Westside, directed the chorus which was accompanied by the Westside Baptist Church mime ministry.

Next, a traditional Liberian dance was performed by 16 dancers dressed in African clothing and waving brightly colored scarves. Their performance was accompanied by an African drummer.

The Westside Missionary Baptist mime ministry returned with a performance to the song, "My Worship is For Real." The song is by Bishop Larry Trotter and the Sweet Holy Spirit Combined Choirs and is featured on their 2001 release, "Tell the Devil I'm Back."

Rochelle DeClue Walker, counselor in the Office of Multicultural Relations, made a special acknowledgement of all the high school students that were in attendance. Students from Normandy, Vashon, McCluer and Cardinal Ritter College Prep stood up and were encouraged by Walker to consider continuing their education at UM-St. Louis.

MOVIE REVIEW



John Constantine (Keanu Reeves) straddles the world of living and dead and battles the evils of hell.

Photo courtesy of constantinemovie.warnerbros.com

'Constantine' mixes 'Matrix' and 'Hellboy'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

There is good news and bad news for audiences of "Constantine." The good news is that it is much better than the last "Matrix" movie. The bad news is it is not quite as good as "Hellboy," even if Keanu Reeves is much prettier. "Constantine" is based on the comic book "Hellblazer." Keanu Reeves plays John Constantine, a demon hunter who straddles the world of the living and the dead, following a near-death experience. Constantine uses his ability to see demons that move around Earth unseen by normal people and uses his special powers against them to battle demons from hell that try to invade the land of the

living. The somber, even cynical demon hunter goes about his work as a way to try to redeem himself for his past sins and stave off a future in hell. Rachel Weisz plays Angela Dodson, a police detective who seeks out Constantine to solve the mystery of her twin sister's death (also played by Weisz), a death that may be tied to a more powerful underworld force trying to invade the world. The cast is rounded out by Tilda Swinton as the angel Gabriel who is Constantine's contact to heaven, Shia LaBeouf as Constantine's driver and demon hunter-in-training Chas, Djimon Hounsou as seer and nightclub owner Midnite and Peter Stormare as Satan.

"Constantine" is a film that gets all the supernatural visual elements just right and gives us plenty of great looking photography and effects. However, the pace is surprisingly slow for an

action film. "Constantine" has some shortcomings, but thankfully Keanu Reeves' performance is not one of them. Actually, the acting overall is one of the strengths of the film. Actress Rachel Weisz is fine but largely wasted in this film, with not really enough to do. The handsome Keanu Reeves may have a history of uneven acting performances but here he turns in one of his better performances as the stoic, brooding Constantine, occasionally snarling slightly into the camera and refraining from some of his less convincing tricks. Tilda Swinton has the most startling bit as the androgynous, angelic looking but surprisingly unpleasant Gabriel, and her part along with Peter Stormare's snobby Satan are among the most enjoyable in the film.

The problem with "Constantine" is really the thinness of the plot and the

slow pace, occasionally threatening to lull the audience to sleep. The story straddles both "The Matrix" and "Hellboy," leaning more to the latter, which is also based on a comic book, but there just does not seem to be enough plot here. "Constantine" has a lot of terrific looking action sequences, nice dark and spooky costumes and settings and one great dark and dramatic looking shot after another, but there often are too many of them, as if director Francis Lawrence could not make up his mind which one to keep. It often uses three shots of cool, fabulous looking, supernatural set pieces where one is needed, and undercuts the better efforts of the actors with the leaden pace. The story carrying all this great atmospheric photography and production is good but just so thin, that the film often seems like it is just dragging things out to make room for more

of those cool looking shots. The languid pace of the action eventually dampens down much of the appeal of the visual elements.

The film uses a lot of religious, particularly Catholic, imagery and symbolism, and focuses on themes about struggles between heaven and hell, and good and evil. Not a bad concept but it is not fully exploited for storyline.

This film is a not bad piece of entertainment, a bit like Hellboy with prettier actors, but not as skillfully done or entertaining as that film. If the editing had been tightened up to pick up the pace in this film, or if more plot had been added, it would have been a much better piece of atmospheric, supernatural entertainment. "Constantine" might appeal most to action fans more enamored with supernatural visuals than the action.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Bride and Prejudice' sends Austen to 'Bollywood'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

Too bad this film did not come out in time for Valentine's Day. It makes a heck of a fun date movie.

Just as she used "Bend It Like Beckham" to turn assumptions about the girls in sports on their head, Director Gurinder Chadha's romantic comic "Bride and Prejudice" turns assumptions about Indian "Bollywood" movies, and Indians, on their head. And makes a funny movie to boot.

"Bride and Prejudice" is a cross-cultural updating of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" that uses a slightly skewed Bollywood style. In this modern, global version of Austen's tale, smart, independent Lalita (Aishwarya Rai) horrifies her traditional small-town Indian family, and especially her mother, when she asserts that she wants to marry for love, scorning traditional arranged marriages. When she meets a visiting Western businessman, the wealthy American Will Darcy (Martin Henderson), there is an immediate reaction and sparks fly. But whether the reaction is hate or love is not clear, as Lalita's initial attraction to the handsome Darcy is quickly replaced by anger when he also impresses her as a culturally narrow-minded American snob. Darcy is attracted to Lalita's beau-

ty but his cultural cluelessness and his assumption that she is a naïve, small-town Indian who knows nothing of the world does nothing to endear him to the Indian beauty. The pair tilts back and forth between attraction and misunderstanding at every meeting.

Chadha's previous film, "Bend It Like Beckham," was the British international hit about the friendship between two teen girls, one from an Indian family, who live to play soccer. Following that assumption-twisting film, Chadha has been courted by Hollywood studios and she thought this might be her only chance to do a Bollywood style film, before going on to the more Western style films. The cross-cultural theme of "Bride and Prejudice" appealed to Chadha, whose own background is pretty multicultural, since she was born in London to Indian parents and is married to an American of Asian heritage.

The film uses Austen's story to create a romantic comedy that pokes fun at both conventions of Bollywood style of Indian films and Western assumptions about India. The colorful, song-and-dance Indian style of film known as Bollywood is somewhere between chaste, classic Hollywood musicals and pop music videos. Although this film is actually an affectionate tongue-in-cheek parody of the style, "Bride and Prejudice" might be a fun, easy way for someone unfamiliar with Bollywood to

sample a taste of the style without taking the full plunge.

"Bride and Prejudice" is not really a purely Bollywood film but a playful, affectionate satire of the style, served up by British-born director Gurinder Chadha. Chadha used a crew of both Western and "Bollywood" filmmakers, and the film stars Bollywood superstar Aishwarya Rai, in her first Western role, with a cast that is a mix of Indian and Western actors. The fresh, comic "Bride and Prejudice" is actually a blend of Eastern and Western styles. This is not so much a film for Bollywood fans but more of an introduction to the style for Western audiences.

The film is not only a splashy spectacle that captures the color and movement of Bollywood movies, but also manages a considerable nod to the unreal world of American musicals, with the playful 1950s style "No Life Without Wife" sequence, and with the Gospel choir, robes and all, on the beach scene near the end. Both sequences are both perfect and hilarious. The Bollywood numbers are a bigger and over the top, pushing the edge of the already big style. Some Bollywood purists may not care for Chadha's humorous mish-mash, but most audiences should be able to have a good laugh, as she dances around both Eastern and Western conventions.

Fun, and funny, is what it is all about and too much over-thinking about the

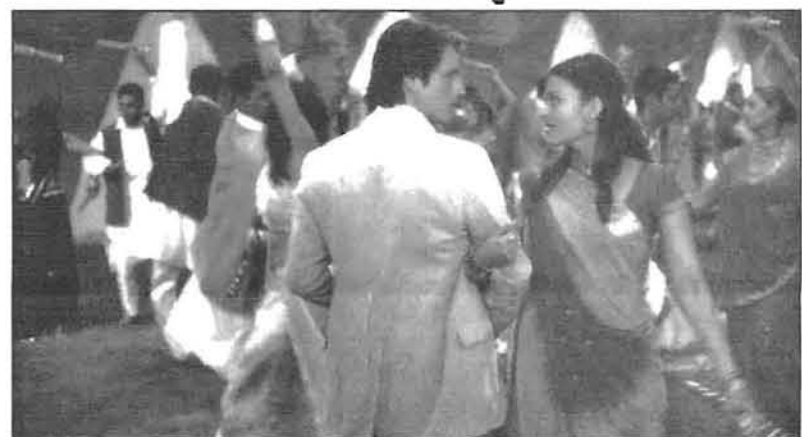


Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Free-spirited Lalita (Aishwarya Rai) dances with her wealthy American love, Will Darcy (Martin Henderson). In the film, Lalita decides to marry for love, scaring her small-town Indian family.

spectacle part makes no more sense for this extravaganza than for any other musical. Save serious thought for the film's underlying comments on cultural assumptions and ethnocentrism. The London-born and raised director Chadha said in an interview here, earlier this year, that she thought that the restrictions and formality of marriages in Austen's day fit well with arranged marriages in traditional Indian society. The misunderstandings between the affluent and less affluent classes, and between country and city folk, also fit the cross-cultural adaptation.

If the film has a flaw, it is that the acting is largely overwhelmed by all the

production numbers and all the playing around with musical conventions. Leading actress and Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai is beautiful but her performance is seems a bit too cool and distant for the character. We are far more dazzled by the dancing than by the adaptation of the story, although the director does make her point about Western cultural prejudices nicely.

The film is so busy upsetting assumptions that all the craziness, while funny, buries much of the romance in the story as well. Despite that, "Bride and Prejudice" is a fun way to take a dip in the "Bollywood" pool without getting in over your head.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Visitors can enjoy comfy, casual dining at Crooked Tree

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

For people who are looking for a moderately priced meal in a small, quiet restaurant, check out the Crooked Tree Coffeehouse in St. Charles.

My friend and I arrived on Friday afternoon at around 3:15 p.m. The restaurant was not too busy. In fact, there were only three other people besides the two employees. The restaurant is a single dining room. It is a small room with wooden floors and blue-gray walls. There are a handful of tables in the middle of the room. Couches and sitting chairs surround a coffee table in the back of the restaurant, and there is also a piano. The counter sits to the left of the front door. The kitchen is easily visible from the counter.

The menu is written on blackboards hanging on the wall behind the counter. Over thirty items are offered, including breakfast, soup, wraps, crepes, sandwiches and salads. Beverages other than coffee and lattes

include soda, iced tea, bottled water, bottled juice, Snapple, Italian soda, French soda, fresh squeezed lemonade and hot chocolate.

My friend, who had previously dined at the Crooked Tree, ordered first. She went with a veggie sandwich and a peppermint mocha. I chose to go with a Ranch Chicken Melt and a hot chocolate. The sandwiches come with a choice of a side of chips, fruit or potato salad. We both opted for the chips. Laura, the worker making our sandwiches, told us to sit down and she would bring out our food. We had not been sitting for five minutes with our drinks when the food arrived. My sandwich came with a small side container of Ranch to either pour on the sandwich, or in which to dip the sandwich. My sandwich was hot and delicious. My friend's sandwich was fresh and equally good. After polishing off my sandwich, I went back up to the counter and ordered a slice of triple chocolate fudge cake. The cake is rich, moist and to die for. Both of our bills came to eleven dollars and some change.

The service at the Crooked Tree is good. Laura and Dane, the young man

who took our orders, are both friendly and funny. They joked with us and each other, but not to the point of goofing off or being inappropriate. My friend informed me that the friendliness of the employees and the owner is one of the reasons she keeps going back to this coffeehouse.

The Crooked Tree Coffeehouse, owned by Stein Hunter, first opened in 2002. At the end of 2004, the restaurant closed and relocated to its current location at 559 First Capital in St. Charles, near Lindenwood University. The coffeehouse reopened just a few weeks ago. Amenities include: high-speed Internet access, a web cam, prepaid phone and service by Verizon Wireless, online shopping, games, books and more. Hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In coming weeks, The Crooked Tree will be open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Crooked Tree Coffeehouse is a casual, relaxing place to visit. It is a small, quiet nook to go to unwind after a long day of work or school. Stop in for delicious food, hot drinks and friendly service.



Erica Burrus/ The Current

The Crooked Tree Coffeehouse in St. Charles offers a variety of sandwiches and sweets to conquer any craving. In the near future, visitors can hang out at the coffeehouse until midnight every Friday and Saturday. Currently the establishment is open until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Weekly Cartoon - by Rudy Scoggins

HEY TYLER, YOU LOOK BORED. YOU KNOW WHAT I DO IN MY FREE TIME?

I...HAVEN'T A CLUE, SID

MAN, THIS IS SOME GREAT CRACK!!

I DO THE CHICKEN DANCE!!!

C'MON, WHAT'S STOPPING YA?

BESIDES THE COLLECTIVE WILL OF ALL MY BLACK ANCESTORS?

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Gabrielle Abels, visiting professor at the Institute for Science and Technology at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, speaks on Wednesday at the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies during a discussion on reproductive rights.

Lecture focuses on reproductive rights

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

In the recent presidential election, women's reproductive rights were a major topic, so it was only appropriate for the UM-St. Louis' women's history month speaker series to kick off discussing the controversies surrounding this topic.

On March 2, a panel discussion was held in Room 211 Clark Hall about religion and reproductive rights. The panel was composed of three women, all who support women's right to choose, and included Sister Jeanne Meuer of Woman's Place, Rebecca Turner from Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom and Gabriele Abels, professor from the University of Bielefeld in Germany.

The audience, which consisted mainly of women, was not without differing views on abortion.

Mary Ford, a UM-St. Louis graduate student studying social work, was at the speech hoping to become informed about the views being presented and claimed that she has an open mind about women's choices.

On the other side, Chris Rene, history graduate student, came to the lecture because he sees himself as religious and pro-life.

Guests of the speech were provided several handouts. One, entitled "Religious Pro-choice Americans Speak Out," read, "For years, religious political extremists have claimed religion opposes abortion...In fact, this assertion is false. Religious Americans actively support a woman's right to choose."

Sister Jeanne Meuer began the presentation by explaining why she supports women's reproductive rights. She said that people are responsible for their own choices and, as a Roman Catholic, she believes people should follow their conscience. "The most basic human thing is choice," Meuer said.

Meuer went on to say that it is a woman's body and therefore a woman's choice.

A pamphlet from Rebecca Turner's organization, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, reads in part, "While Americans of all faiths differ on abortion, the great majority believes it is a moral decision, one a woman must make for herself."

Turner, a minister, followed

Meuer in the discussion. She began by telling a story about her sister who dropped out of college due to an unwanted pregnancy and has "hovered around the poverty line" ever since. Turner explained that she feels stories like hers are much more prevalent than the single mother success stories hyped by the media.

People that are pro-life generally respond to the view presented by arguing that human DNA is present at conception and therefore abortion is murder. Pro-choice supporters can look to yet another handout given at the speech for an answer; "To deny a woman the power to make decisions is to disrespect the integrity of her conscience and, ultimately, to deny her full personhood."

People can go several places for more information about women's reproductive rights, including Nikki Doughty, assistant in the UM-St. Louis office for Women's Gender Studies at 516-5581, and the Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom website at www.syrf.org.

The next women's history month speaker series lecture will be held on March 9, at 12:30 p.m., in Room 211 Clark Hall. The event will focus on HIV and risky behavior among students.

FOOD SERVICE, from page 1

She said student organizations could buy prepared meals at a local grocery store, but with Chartwells, students are paying for the service, in addition to the food. "Chartwells wants to work in a partnership with the University to promote the students," she said.

Scherer named two reasons Chartwells is advantageous in catering student organization events. Chartwells offers the look and presentation of served food that other options cannot provide. Chartwells also takes on the responsibility of food safety, which Scherer said was a top concern for the company. "The liability is on Chartwells," she said.

Chartwells' contract with the University states that student organizations must use their catering service for on-campus events, but

some students feel the contract limits their spending abilities.

Jennifer Rapini, senior, biology, called her experience with Chartwells "mediocre." She said, "Spending so much of our budget on expensive food is hard on a small budget club like the Biological Society."

Rapini said most items on the student activity menu are expensive and choices are limited for cheaper items. However, Chartwells plans to offer student discounts on catered events in the near future.

The committee is open to new concerns of students and increased student involvement, too. Braddix wants to include all people working or associated with Chartwells on the committee.

"I was hoping the committee would have a wide array of stu-

dents, so there would be student input from every different avenue on campus," he said.

Chartwells agreed to listen to students' problems at the meetings to try to rectify legitimate worries. "One of the biggest problems that I heard from them (Chartwells) is that student don't come to them about their concerns," Braddix said. "When there's an issue with Chartwells, they go to other students and talk about them. It would really pay just to go straight to one of the managers working."

The food committee will handle student concerns and provide information about food service and catering on campus. "This committee would be a good place for people to voice their concerns who don't feel comfortable doing it one on one," Braddix said.

BEARDEN, from page 1

Bearden believes sexual orientation is a person's lifestyle choice and a person is not born with a certain sexual preference. He supports the bill that would subject institutions, including the University, to a penalty, such as withdrawing funds.

Bearden also voted against another bill that would give the student curator a vote on the board of curators. Charles Stadlander, junior, public policy, was a representative of Associated Students of the University of Missouri that attended the event. He asked Bearden for his stance on the student curator bill.

Bearden supports the student curator being involved and having input into the board of curators, but he shared his concern that the student may not be able to handle that responsibility.

"Having a student curator vote would compromise with a student being in there (the board of curators meeting). Things are discussed as a closed session,

which the current student curator is not allowed in. It puts the students in a very untenable situation," Bearden said. However, Stadlander said the student curator does have access to the closed door meetings.

Stadlander talked about a student petition to give the student curator a vote, which has more than 1,000 signatures. Bearden's voting record showed he did not support the student curator bill in the past and voted against it in 2002. However, if a vote was needed, Bearden said he would support the bill.

Stadlander may oppose Bearden's opinions concerning these policies, but he said, "He (Bearden) is a very strong supporter of higher education funding." Stadlander respects Bearden and the work he is doing with higher education funding.

Bearden said students should communicate with both their state legislator and their school administrators. "We

need to work together collectively to come up with the best system we can to provide the education value to the students," he said.

Mark Bacon, junior, public policy, said ASUM interns work with Bearden, which is why they invited him to speak. "We invited him because we thought he'd be an interesting and informing speaker on higher education in the UM system," he said.

Stadlander said, "I think Representative Bearden is a stand up guy. I think he speaks his true beliefs. Although I disagree with him on some things he stands for, I think that we should recognize our common ground." He hopes students in ASUM work hard with Bearden.

Bearden has represented District 16, which includes St. Charles County, since 2000. He is a member of the Special Committee on Educational Funding and the Higher Education Committee.

SGA CONSTITUTION, from page 1

One other change involving officers also included a recommendation to eliminate the treasurer position, following other student organizations, which either have a treasurer or a comptroller but not both.

The committee felt the change was necessary because other officers could complete the treasurer's duties.

Coker said the treasurer had three major duties, including the budget. "The whole executive board has input on the budget, and the other two duties we could easily pass onto the secretary and the comptroller. Therefore, eliminating this position would not leave much of a void," Coker said.

"Right now, it (the student budget)

mostly is the sole responsibility of the treasurer, and the committee felt that that should be something that the president should be more involved in," Hollander said. "Many thought it was important to stress that the Assembly should have some input in the budget. It shouldn't just be the responsibility of one person."

Coker also mentioned the possible attempt to eliminate the vice chair position, but the committee decided to keep the position since the vice chair has the responsibility of acting as liaison between the student body and the Executive Board.

The committee hoped to clarify the responsibilities and duties of each offi-

cer, so students interested in running for a particular office know what to expect.

"The goal of everybody involved is to get a clearer document and make it easier for concerned and interested parties to read it and get answers to their questions," Hollander said. He hopes the clarifications will avoid ambiguous interpretations of the constitution's wording.

Hollander said, "We hope that the document, the proposal, will clarify some of the more recent problems and avoid, hopefully, problems in the future." Hollander hopes the Assembly is prepared for a vote at the SGA meeting March 11.

GOSPEL CONCERT, from page 10

Charles Pillar then gave a brief history on the Lewis and Clark expedition with special emphasis on Clark's slave, York, who was instrumental in the expedition. He read a list of York's many accomplishments and told young people in the audience, "You are not slaves. If York could do all that he did as a slave, certainly you can do more."

Dello Thedford and the Gospel Symphonic Choir were then introduced by Mrs. Packnett. The ecumenical group was formed by Thedford in 1995 and features 70 singers representing various St. Louis churches. Anita Watkins-Stevens is the group's director.

The men were dressed in tuxedos and the women in brightly colored African attire as they performed several classic gospel tunes beginning with the upbeat "Sing Praises to the Lord."

Next, they sang a concert version of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." For the next selection, "The Lord's Prayer," young praise dancers joined them onstage. "We Serve an Awesome God," which was written by UM-St. Louis alumnus Oscar Williams, Jr., featured solo performances by Linda Major and Karen Hilton.

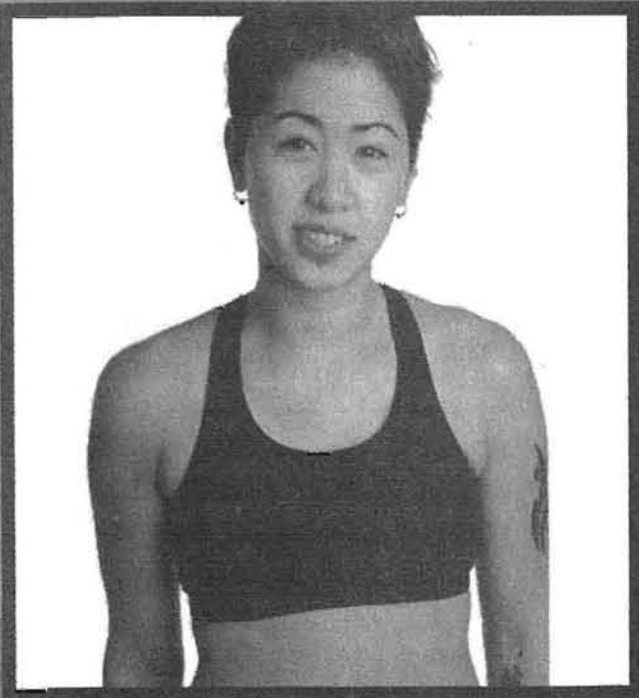
Other songs performed included "He's Done So Much for Me" and "Precious Lord," a classic gospel song

written by the Father of Gospel Music, Thomas A. Dorsey.

The evening ended with singer Leslie Johnson performing "And He Blessed My Soul," which led to an impromptu audience sing-along of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

At the end of the concert, Packnett acknowledged Chancellor George and other campus organizations that were instrumental in putting together the UM-St. Louis Black History Month celebration. It was a fitting way to end a very special and exciting month-long celebration of the many contributions African Americans have made and continue to make to American history.

WHICH ONE IS THE FEMINIST?



Not all feminists are the stereotypical manhaters that so many people perceive them to be. Come let Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner, co-authors of the book *Manifesta*, prove that to you.

AMY RICHARDS & JENNIFER BAUMGARDNER
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